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PREFACE

THE articles contained in this volume were written by Major T. W. Haig, I.A., who received drafts on special subjects from Sir Thomas Holland, K.C.S.I. (Geology), Lieut.-Col. Prain, C.I.E. (Botany), and Mr. Fernandez (Forests). Great assistance was received from District officers in Berār, who have supplied the later statistics and other information.

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PROVINCIAL GAZETTEERS OF INDIA

BERĀR

Berār (otherwise known as the Hyderābād Assigned Districts).—A province, lying between 19° 35′ and 21° 47′ N. and 75° 59′ and 79° 11′ E., which has been administered by the British Government on behalf of His Highness the Nizām of Hyderābād since 1853. It consists of a broad valley running east and west, between two tracts of hilly country, the Gāwīlgarh hills (the Melghāt) on the north, and the Ajanta range (the Bālāghāt) on the south. The old name of the central valley was the Pāyānghāt; and these three names—Melghāt, Pāyānghāt, and Bālāghāt—will be used to define the three natural divisions of the province. The area of Berār is 17,710 square miles. Physical aspects. Situation, boundaries, &c.

The origin of the name Berār, or Warhād as it is spelt in Marāthī, is not known. It may possibly be a corruption of Vidarbha, the name of a large kingdom in the Deccan, of which the modern Berār probably formed part in the age of the Mahābhārata. The popular derivation from certain eponymous Warhādīs, who accompanied Rukmin and Rukminī to Amraotī when the latter went to pay her vows at the temple of Ambā Devī before her projected marriage to Sisupāla, must be set aside as purely fanciful; and Abul Fazl's derivation of the name from Wardhā, the river, and *tat*, a 'bank,' is of no more value.

Berār is bounded on the north by the Sātpurās and the Tāpti, which separate it from the Central Provinces; on the east, where again it adjoins the Central Provinces, by the Wardhā; along the greater part of its southern frontier, where it adjoins the Hyderābād State, by the Pengangā; while on the west an artificial line cutting across the broad valley from the Sātpurā Hills to the Ajanta range, and produced southwards over those hills, separates it from the Bombay Presidency and Hyderābād.

The Gāwīlgarh hills attain their greatest height along the

Hill and river systems.

southernmost range, immediately overlooking the Pāyānghāt, where the average elevation is about 3,400 feet, the highest summit being 3,989 feet. These hills decrease in height as they stretch away towards the north, the average elevation of the range overlooking the Tāpti being no more than 1,650 feet. The plateaux of the Bālāghāt do not attain the height of the hills of the Melghāt, the elevation of Buldāna, Bāsim, and Yeotmāl being only 2,190 feet, 1,758 feet, and 1,583 feet respectively. The general declination of the Bālāghāt table-land is from west to east, or in the direction of the Wardhā river, that of the Gāwīlgarh hills being in the contrary direction.

The principal rivers of Berār are the TĀPTI, the PŪRNA, the WARDHĀ, and the PENGANGĀ. The Tāpti runs from east to west and the Pengangā from west to east, each following the general declination of the range from which it receives its principal affluents. The Wardhā rises in the Sātpurās and flows in a southerly direction, receiving the Pengangā at the south-eastern corner of the province. The Pūrna, which is a tributary of the Tāpti, drains the Pāyānghāt, rising in the lower slopes of the Gāwīlgarh hills in Amraotī District, and running westward through the valley until it leaves the province at the northernmost corner of the Malkāpur *tāluk*. The Pengangā rises in the hills near Deūlghāt in Buldāna District, traverses that District in a south-easterly direction, and enters the Bāsim *tāluk* near Wākad. From Yeotī eastwards it forms the southern boundary of Berār till it meets the Wardhā at Jugād. Its principal tributaries are the Pūs, Arna, Arān, Wāghārī, Kūnī, and Vaidarbha, which rise in the Bālāghāt and flow to meet it in a south-easterly direction.

The only lake in Berār is the salt lake of LONĀR in Buldāna District.

Scenery.

The scenery of the Pāyānghāt is monotonous and uninteresting. The wide expanse of black cotton soil, slightly undulating, is broken by few trees except *babūls* and groves near villages. In the autumn the crops give it a fresh and green appearance; but after the harvest the monotonous scene is unrelieved by verdure, shade, or water, and the landscape is desolate and depressing. The Bālāghāt is more varied and pleasing, though here also the country has a parched and arid appearance in the hot season. The ground is less level and the country generally is better wooded. It stretches in parts into downs and dales, or is broken up into flat-topped hills and deep ravines, while in its eastern section the country is still

more sharply featured by a splitting up of the main hill range, which has caused that variety of low-lying plains, high plateaux, fertile bottoms, and rocky wastes found in Wūn District. The scenery of the Melghāt is yet more picturesque, the most striking features of this tract being the abrupt scarps of trap rock near the summits of the hills, the densely wooded slopes, and the steep ravines. The undulating plateaux are rarely of great extent.

Geology[1]. With the exception of the south-eastern corner, comprising a portion of Wūn District, the whole of Berār is covered by the Deccan trap-flows. In the south-eastern corner the trap has been removed by atmospheric agencies, exposing small patches of the underlying Lameta beds and the great Godāvari trough of Gondwāna rocks. These latter are let down into very old unfossiliferous Purāna strata, are regarded as pre-Cambrian in age, and are known in other parts of peninsular India as Vindhyans, Cuddapahs, &c. The Deccan trap is itself covered with alluvium in the valley of the Pūrna. The groups represented in Berār can be tabulated thus:—

Alluvium . .	Recent and pleistocene.
Deccan trap . .	Upper Cretaceous or lower eocene.
Lameta . . .	Upper Cretaceous.
Gondwāna . .	Permo-carboniferous to Jurassic.
Purāna . . .	Pre-Cambrian.

The old rocks of the Purāna group come to the surface on the south-eastern margin of the great cap of Deccan trap, occupying the border out to the main boundary of the Gondwāna strata. They are covered by two small isolated patches of Deccan trap—outliers south-east of Kāyar—and with some outliers of Gondwāna beds in the Vaidarbha valley and farther west. In one or two small hills in this corner of the province the distinction between the Purāna sandstones and the much later sandstones belonging to the Kamptee division of the Gondwāna system is seen. Yānak hill (1,005 feet) is formed of Purāna sandstones, and several bands of conglomerate occur containing pebbles of hematite, from which the iron ore formerly smelted at Yānak was obtained. Shales, slates, and limestones of the Purāna group prevail to the west of the sandstone bed in Wūn District, giving some magnificent sections in the Pengangā and its tributaries.

The Gondwāna rocks are especially worthy of notice, on account of their coal-measures. It has been estimated that

[1] From a note supplied by Sir Thomas Holland, K.C.I.E., Director of the Geological Survey of India.

about 2,100,000,000 tons of coal are available in Wūn District. Direct evidence of the occurrence of coal has been obtained throughout 13 miles of country from Wūn to Pāpūr, and for 10 miles from Junāra to Chincholī. It is estimated that there are 150,000,000 tons above the 500 feet level between Junāra and Chincholī; and the existence of thick coal has been proved in the Barākars which crop out near the Wardhā river in the south-eastern part of Wūn District.

The Deccan trap, with which the greater part of Berār is covered, was erupted towards the end of Cretaceous times, the volcanic activity stretching on, probably, into the beginning of the Tertiary period. At the base, and stretching beyond the fringe, of the Deccan trap, there is often a fresh-water, or subaerial, formation, composed of clays, sandstones, and limestones, representing the materials formed by weathering or actually deposited in water on the old continent over which the Deccan lava-flows spread.

The hollow containing the lake of Lonār in Buldāna District was probably caused by a violent gaseous explosion long after the eruption of the Deccan trap, and in comparatively recent times.

An interesting feature of the alluvial deposits in the valley of the Pūrna is the occurrence of salt in some of the beds at a little depth below the surface. Wells used formerly to be sunk on both sides of the river for the purpose of obtaining brine from the gravelly layers. The absence of fossils supports the idea that the salt is not derived from marine beds, but is in all probability due to the concentration of the salts ordinarily carried in underground water through the excessive surface evaporation which goes on in these dry areas for most of the year[1].

Botany[2]. The Melghāt hills are forest-clad, the constituent vegetation being that characteristic of the Sātpurās generally. The most plentiful species is *Boswellia*, accompanied by *Cochlospermum*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, and *Lagerstroemia parviflora*. Where the soil is deeper more valuable species, such as *Tectona grandis*, *Dendrocalamus strictus*, and, more sparingly, *Hardwickia binata*, are found occupying the valleys and ravines. Scattered throughout the forest occur *Ougeinia dalbergioides*, *Adina*

[1] *Memoirs, Geological Survey of India*, vol. xiii; *Records, Geological Survey of India*, vol. i, part iii; *General Report of the Geological Survey of India* (1902–5).

[2] From a note supplied by Major D. Prain, I.M.S., Director of the Botanical Survey.

cordifolia, *Stephegyne parvifolia*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Schrebera swietenioides*, *Eugenia Jambolana*, *Bridelia retusa*, *Terminalia Chebula*; some heavy creepers, such as *Bauhinia Vahlii*; and species of *Millettia*, *Combretum*, *Vitis*, &c. On lighter gravelly soil, both in Northern and Southern Berār, forests with *Hardwickia binata* are met with. *Pterocarpus Marsupium* occurs near the edges of most of the high plateaux, with occasional trees of *Dalbergia latifolia*.

Where the soil in the Bālāghāt is thin, the slopes and plateaux are covered chiefly with *Boswellia*; but in deeper soil *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, and *Terminalia tomentosa* are the principal species. Along river banks considerable quantities of *Terminalia Arjuna* and *Schleichera trijuga* are sometimes met with. In the bottoms of the ravines are scattered clumps of *Dendrocalamus strictus*. The hills are often bare and grass-clad, the most striking species being large Andropogons, Anthistirias, Iseilemas, &c. In level tracts mangoes, tamarinds, *mahuās*, and *pīpals* abound, with groves of *Phoenix sylvestris*. Stretches of *babūl* jungle are characteristic of the province. In cultivated ground the weed vegetation is that characteristic of the Deccan, and includes many small *Compositae*.

The principal wild animals are the tiger, the leopard, the hunting leopard, and the wild cat among Felidae. Deer and antelopes are represented by the *sāmbar*, the spotted deer, the barking-deer, the common Indian antelope, the *nīlgai*, the four-horned antelope, and the *chinkāra*; and Canidae by the Indian wolf, the Indian fox, the wild dog, and the jackal. The striped hyena, the wild hog, and the Indian black or sloth bear are of frequent occurrence, the last especially in the Melghāt. Monkeys are represented by the *langūr* and the smaller red monkey, the latter being found in the Melghāt only, while the former is common throughout the province. Fauna.

The climate differs very little from that of the Deccan generally, except that in the Pāyānghāt the hot season is exceptionally severe. During April and May, and until the rains set in about the middle of June, the sun is very powerful, and there is by day severe heat, but without the scorching winds of Northern India. The nights are comparatively cool throughout, and during the rains the air is moist and fairly cool. The climate of the Bālāghāt is similar to that of the Pāyānghāt, but the thermometer stands much lower than in the plains. On the higher plateaux of the Gāwīlgarh hills the climate is always temperate, and at the sanitarium of Climate and temperature.

Chikalda the heat is seldom so great as to be unpleasant. The following table shows the average temperature, at two representative stations, in January, May, July, and November:—

Station.	Height of Observatory above sea-level in feet.	Average temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) for the twenty-five years ending with 1901 in							
		January.		May.		July.		November.	
		Mean.	Diurnal range.	Mean.	Diurnal range.	Mean.	Diurnal range.	Mean.	Diurnal range.
Amraotī.	1,215	71·3	26·5	93·8	27·7	80·7	14·1	74·2	24·9
Akola .	930	69·5	31·5	94·4	26·9	81·8	14·8	72·4	30·0

NOTE.—The diurnal range is the average difference between the maximum and minimum temperature of each day.

Rainfall. The following table shows, for the same stations, the average rainfall in each month of the year:—

Station.	Average rainfall (in inches) for the twenty-five years ending with 1901 in												
	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total of year.
Amraotī .	0·51	0·24	0·32	0·30	0·57	6·55	9·25	6·82	6·10	2·13	0·51	0·66	33·96
Akola . .	0·47	0·21	0·43	0·18	0·38	5·26	9·90	6·84	6·22	2·55	0·51	0·74	33·69

The rainfall is normally somewhat heavier in the Bālāghāt than in the Pāyānghāt, and is considerably heavier in the Melghāt than in either.

History. Legendary period. Berār was anciently known as Vidarbha, under which name it is mentioned in the Mahābhārata. In this epic the Rājā of Vidarbha, Rukmin, is represented as an arrogant and presumptuous prince, who vainly attempted to prevent the marriage of his sister Rukminī to the demi-god Krishna, and who subsequently so disgusted the Pāndavas by his pretensions that they declined his assistance in their quarrel with the Kauravas, leaving him to retire in dudgeon to his own dominions.

The next mention of Vidarbha is in connexion with the famous Oriental romance of Nala and Damayantī. Nala, Rājā of Nishadha (Mālwā), loved Damayantī, the daughter of Bhīma, Rājā of Vidarbha. It is unnecessary to pursue this story, which is mainly mythical, through its intricacies of details; but we learn from it that the kingdom of Vidarbha had for its capital a city of the same name, with which the city of Bīdar in the Nizām's Dominions has been identified. If the identification be correct, and it is supported by legend as well as by etymology, we may conclude that the ancient

kingdom was far more extensive than the modern province of Berār. Tradition says that its kings bore sway over the whole of the Deccan.

The authentic history of Berār commences with the Andhras or Sātavāhanas, of whose dominions it undoubtedly formed part. In the third century B.C., the Andhras occupied the deltas of the Godāvari and Kistna, and were one of the tribes on the outer fringe of Asoka's empire. Soon after the death of that great ruler their territory was rapidly enlarged, and their sway reached Nāsik. The twenty-third king, Vilivāyakura II (A.D. 113–38), successfully warred against his neighbours, the western Satraps of Gujarāt and Kāthiāwār, whose predecessors had encroached on the Andhra kingdom. A few years later, however, the Satraps were victorious, and the Andhra rule appears to have come to an end about 236. The next rulers of the province of whom records have survived were the Rājās of the Vākātaka dynasty, of whom there were ten. This dynasty was probably feudatory to the Vallabhīs, but their chronology is very uncertain. The Abhīras or Ahīrs, who succeeded the Vākātakas, are said to have reigned as independent sovereigns for only sixty-seven years; but Ahīr and Gaoli chieftains continued long afterwards to hold important forts in Berār and the neighbouring country, giving their names to their strongholds, as in the case of Gaoligarh in Khāndesh, Asīrgarh (Asa Ahīr Garh) in the Central Provinces, and Gāwīlgarh in Berār. The Chālukyas next rose to power in the Deccan. Their dominions included Berār, and they reigned until 750, when they were overthrown by the Rāshtrakūtas, who ruled till 973, when the Chālukyas regained their ascendancy, which they retained, though not without vicissitudes, for two centuries. On the death, in 1189, of Somesvara IV, the last Rājā of the restored Chālukya line, his dominions were divided between the Hoysala Ballālas of the south, whose capital was Dorasamudra or Dwārāvatipura [1], and the Yādavas of Deogiri, the modern Daulatābād, Berār naturally falling to the share of the latter. Rājā Bhillama I, the founder of this dynasty, established himself at Deogiri in 1188; and the Yādavas had reigned with some renown for rather more than a century, when, in the reign of Rāmchandra, the sixth Rājā, the Deccan was invaded by the Musalmāns.

Hindu rule.

In 1294 Alā-ud-dīn, the nephew and son-in-law of Fīroz Shāh Khiljī, Sultān of Delhi, invaded the Deccan by way of Chanderī and Ellichpur. After defeating the Yādava Rājā, Rāmchandra,

Muhammadan period.

[1] Halebīd, in Hassan District, Mysore.

styled Rāmdeo by Muhammadan historians, at Deogiri, he was attacked by the Rājā's son, whom also he defeated. He was then bought out of the country by a heavy ransom, which included the cession of the revenues of Ellichpur, the district remaining under Hindu administration. On his return to Hindustān Alā-ud-dīn murdered his uncle at Karā and usurped the throne. Throughout his reign he dispatched successive expeditions into the Deccan, but in the confusion which followed his death in 1316 Harpāl Deo of Deogiri rose in rebellion. He was defeated by Kutb-ud-dīn Mubārak Shāh I in 1317–8, and was flayed alive, his skin being nailed to one of the gates of Deogiri. His dominions were annexed to the Delhi empire, and thus Berār for the first time became a Muhammadan possession, which it has remained ever since. Berār gained considerably in importance during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlak of Delhi, who in 1327 transferred the capital of his empire from Delhi to Daulatābād (Deogiri). In the latter years of this emperor's reign the Amīrs of the Deccan rebelled, and in 1348 Hasan Gangū, Zafar Khān, was proclaimed Sultān of the Deccan under the title of Alā-ud-dīn Bahman Shāh[1].

Bahmani dynasty.

Alā-ud-dīn Bahman, shortly after he had ascended the throne, divided his kingdom into four provinces or *tarafs*, of which Berār, which included Māhūr, Rāmgarh, and Pāthrī, was the northernmost. During the next 130 years Berār furnished contingents in the innumerable wars waged by the Bahmani kings against the Rājās of Vijayanagar, Telingāna, Orissa, and the Konkan, the Sultāns of Gujarāt, Mālwā, and Khāndesh, and the Gonds. It was overrun by Musalmāns from the independent kingdoms on its northern frontier, by Gonds from Chānda, and by Hindus from Telingāna. Ahmad Shāh Walī, the ninth king of the Bahmani dynasty, found it necessary to recapture the forts of Māhūr and Kalam in Eastern Berār, which had fallen into the hands of the infidels. In 1478 or 1479 Berār, which had hitherto been an important province with a separate army and governed by nobles of high rank and position, was divided into two governments, each of which was known by the name of its fortress capital, the northern being called Gāwīl and the southern Māhūr. At the same time the powers of the provincial governors were much curtailed, all important forts being placed under the command of *kiladārs*, who were immediately subordinate to the Sultān.

[1] Most historians have erred in respect of the title under which Bahman ascended the throne. His correct title is given as above in a contemporary inscription.

These salutary reforms came too late to save the Bahmani dynasty from ruin; and in the reign of the fourteenth Sultān, Mahmūd Shāh II, the principal *tdrafdārs*, or provincial governors, proclaimed their independence. Imād-ul-mulk, who had formerly been governor of the whole of Berār and now held Gāwīl, proclaimed his independence in 1490 and soon annexed Māhūr to his kingdom. He was by race a Kanarese Hindu, who had been made captive as a boy in one of the expeditions against Vijayanagar and brought up as a Musalmān by the governor of Berār, to whose place he ultimately succeeded. Imād-ul-mulk died in 1504 and was succeeded by his son Alā-ud-dīn Imād Shāh, who made Gāwīlgarh his capital and waged fruitless war against Amīr Barīd of Bīdar and Burhān Nizām Shāh of Ahmadnagar. Alā-ud-dīn was succeeded on his death in 1529 by his son Daryā Imād Shāh, and he, after a peaceful and uneventful reign, by his son Burhān Imād Shāh (1560–1). This prince, shortly after his accession, was imprisoned in Narnāla by his minister, Tufāl Khān, who declared himself independent. In 1572 Murtazā Nizām Shāh of Ahmadnagar invaded Berār with the avowed intention of releasing Burhān from confinement. Tufāl Khān, his son Shams-ul-mulk who had surrendered Gāwīlgarh, and Burhān were captured shortly afterwards, and were imprisoned and put to death. Thus ended the rule of the Imād Shāhi dynasty in Berār, after a duration of eighty-five years. Imād Shāhi dynasty.

The Ahmadnagar dynasty was not long destined to hold possession of the prize. At home it could do nothing to quell civil broils and allay dangerous feuds. Even when the famous Chānd Bībī became queen-regent there was no chance of upholding a tottering state. In 1595 prince Murād, the fourth son of the emperor Akbar, besieged Ahmadnagar, but raised the siege, early in 1596, on receiving the formal cession of Berār. Nizām Shāhi dynasty.

In those times the Deccan swarmed with adventurers from every nation in Asia and even from the African coast of the Indian Ocean. These men and their descendants settled in the towns, and their chiefs occupied most of the high military and civil offices; but the Musalmān rulers of the Deccan did nothing to disturb the routine of ordinary revenue collections and the administration of the internal affairs of villages and *parganas*, so that the old Hindu organization, with its hereditary *pargana* and village officials, the relic, perhaps, of a civilization older still, was allowed to remain, recognized by the conquerors as a more convenient administrative machine than any which they could devise. There are now in Berār several Muham-

madan families of *deshmukhs* (former *pargana* officials); but they are all believed, and for the most part admit themselves, to be descendants of Hindus who in the reign of Aurangzeb accepted Islām in preference to relinquishing their hereditary offices. They may be distinguished from other Musalmāns by their antipathy to beef, and frequently by a partiality for Hindu names, while in one case there are in neighbouring *parganas* two families of *deshmukhs*, one Musalmān and the other Hindu, acknowledged cousins, both of them claiming to be Rājputs by caste. Of the principal Marāthā families enumerated by Grant Duff as holding good positions under the Bahmani monarchy, that of Jādon Rao is the only one belonging to Berār. In lineage and historical repute it yields to none, even if its claim to descent from the Yādava Rājās of Deogiri be discredited; and the line is not yet extinct.

Mughal period.

Prince Murād, after the annexation of Berār to the Mughal empire, founded a town about 6 miles from Bālāpur, which he named Shāhpur, making it his residence; and the newly won province was divided among the Mughal nobles. After Murād's death in 1598 Akbar formed the design of conquering the whole of the Deccan. Ahmadnagar was besieged and captured; and Dāniyāl, the emperor's fifth son, was appointed governor of Ahmadnagar, Khāndesh, and Berār. He died in 1605, in the same year as his father, Akbar. For the greater part of the reign of Jahāngīr, Akbar's son and successor, Berār was in the possession of Malik Ambar, the Abyssinian (died 1626), who represented the independence of the moribund dynasty of Ahmadnagar, and to whose military genius and administrative capacity a generous tribute is paid in the *Tūzak-i-Jahāngīrī*, the official record of Jahāngīr's reign.

In the first year of Shāh Jahān, Berār passed once more under the Mughal sway. In 1636 the whole of that part of the Deccan which was in the possession of the Mughals was divided into four *Sūbahs*, or provinces, one of which was Berār, with Ellichpur as its capital and Gāwīlgarh as its principal fortress. Aurangzeb, Shāh Jahān's third son, was appointed viceroy of these four *Sūbahs*. After Aurangzeb deposed his father, the resources of Berār were taxed to the utmost by his campaigns in Bijāpur, Golconda, and Southern India; and at the same time the province was the prey of Marāthā marauders. In 1680 it was overrun by Sambhājī, the son of Sivājī; and in 1698 Rājārām, the half-brother and successor of Sambhājī, aided by Bakht Buland, the Gond Rājā of DEOGARH, who had

embraced Islām in order to obtain Aurangzeb's support, again devastated the province.

In 1718 Abdullah and Husain Alī Khān, the Saiyid ministers of the emperor Farrukh Siyar, formally recognized the claim of the Marāthās, who periodically overran Berār, to *chauth*, or blackmail, to the extent of one-quarter of the revenue, and also permitted them to levy from the ryots the contribution known as *sardeshmukhi*, which seems to have been a royalty on appointments to or recognitions of the old Hindu office of *deshmukh*, and amounted to 10 per cent. of the revenue collections.

The Nizām and the Marāthās

A year later Muhammad Shāh ascended the throne of Delhi, but the government was still in the hands of the two Saiyids. Chīn Kilīch Khān, afterwards known as Asaf Jāh, who had distinguished himself in the later wars of Aurangzeb, had been appointed viceroy of the Deccan under the title of Nizām-ul-mulk, but was opposed by the court party at Delhi, who sent secret instructions to Mubāriz Khān, governor of Khāndesh, urging him to withstand Asaf Jāh by force of arms. In 1724 a battle was fought at Shakarkhelda in Buldāna District, in which Mubāriz Khān was utterly defeated. This battle established the virtual independence of Asaf Jāh, the founder of the line of the Nizāms of Hyderābād, who, to celebrate his victory, renamed the scene of it FATHKHELDA, or 'the village of victory'; and from that day Berār has always been nominally subject to the Nizām. The Bhonsla Rājās of Nāgpur posted their officers all over the province; they occupied it with their troops; they collected more than half the revenue, and they fought among themselves for the right to collect; but the Nizām constantly maintained his title as *de jure* ruler of the country, with the exception of Mehkar and some *parganas* to the south, which were ceded to the Peshwā in 1760 after the battle of Udgīr, and Umarkhed and other *parganas* ceded in 1795 after the battle of Kharda. This struggle between Mughal and Marāthā for supremacy in Berār commenced in 1737 between Asaf Jāh and Raghujī Bhonsla. It ended in 1803, when, after the defeat of the Marāthā confederacy at Assaye and Argaon, and the capture of Gāwīlgarh by General Arthur Wellesley, the Bhonsla Rājā signed the Treaty of Deogaon, by which he resigned all claim to territory and revenue west of the Wardhā, Gāwīlgarh and Narnāla, with a small tract of land afterwards exchanged, remaining in his possession.

The injury caused to Berār by the wars of the eighteenth

century must have been wide and deep. Described in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as highly cultivated and in parts populous, supposed by M. de Thevenot in 1667 to be one of the wealthiest portions of the Mughal empire, it fell on evil days before the close of the seventeenth century. Cultivation fell off just when the finances were strained by the long wars; the local revenue officers rebelled; the army became mutinous; and the Marāthās easily plundered a weak province when they had severed its sinews by cutting off its trade. Wherever the Mughals appointed a collector the Marāthās appointed another, and both claimed the revenue, while foragers from each side exacted forced contributions, so that the harassed cultivator often threw up his land and helped to plunder his neighbour. The Marāthās by these means succeeded in fixing their hold on the province; but its resources were ruined, and its people were seriously demoralized by a régime of barefaced plunder and fleecing without the semblance of principle or stability.

Berār re-attached to Hyderābād.

By the partition treaty of Hyderābād (1804) the Berār territories ceded by the Bhonsla Rājā were made over to the Nizām. Some tracts about Sindkhed and Jālna were also restored by Sindhia to the Hyderābād State.

The Treaty of Deogaon had put a stop to actual warfare in Berār, but the people continued to suffer intermittently from the inroads of Pindāris, and incessantly from misgovernment; for the province had been restored to the Nizām just at the time when confusion in his territories was at its worst. 'The Nizām's territories,' wrote General Wellesley in January, 1804, 'are one complete chaos from the Godāvari to Hyderābād'; and again, 'Sindkhed is a nest of thieves; the situation of this country is shocking; the people are starving in hundreds, and there is no government to afford the slightest relief.'

After the conclusion of the war of 1817–8, which did not seriously affect the tranquillity of Berār, a treaty was made in 1822 which fixed the Wardhā river as the eastern frontier of the province, the Melghāt and the subjacent districts in the plains being restored to Hyderābād in exchange for the districts east of the Wardhā and those held by the Peshwā. The treaty also extinguished the Marāthā claim to *chauth*.

Between 1803 and 1820 the revenue of Berar had declined by one-half owing to the raids of Pindāris and Bhīls, while the administration was most wasteful, no less than 26,000 troops being quartered on the province. General Wellesley had advised in 1804 that the local governor should be compelled to reform his military establishment, foretelling the aggravation

of civil disorder by the sudden cessation of arms. The disbanded troops were too strong for the weak police, while the spread of British dominion established order all around, and drove all the brigands of India within the limits of Native States. So Berār was harried from time to time by bands of men under leaders who on various pretexts, but always with the real object of plunder, set up the standard of rebellion. Sometimes the British irregular forces had to take the field against them, as, for instance, in 1849, when a man styling himself Appa Sāhib Bhonsla, *ex*-Rājā of Nāgpur, was with difficulty captured. Throughout these troubles the Hindu *deshmukhs* and other *pargana* officials were openly disloyal to the Nizām's government, doing their best to thwart his commanders and abetting the pretenders. The last fight against open rebels took place at Chichamba, near Risod, in 1859.

After the old war-time came the 'cankers of a calm world,' for then began the palmy days of the great farmers-general at Hyderābād. Messrs. Palmer & Co. overshadowed the government, and very nearly proved too strong for Sir Charles Metcalfe when he laid the axe to the root of their power. The firm had made large loans at 24 per cent. for the numerous cavalry maintained in Berār. Then Puran Mal, a great money-lender of Hyderābād, got most of Berār in farm; but in 1839 he was turned out, under pressure from the Resident, in favour of Messrs. Pestonjī & Co. These were enterprising Pārsī merchants, who in 1825-6 made the first considerable exportation of cotton from Berār to Bombay. They gave liberal advances to cotton-growers, set up presses at Khāmgaon and other places, and took up, generally, the export of produce from the Nizām's country. In 1841 Chandū Lāl, the Hyderābād minister, gave them large assignments of revenue in Berār in repayment of loans to the State; but in 1843 the minister resigned, having conducted the State to the verge of bankruptcy, and Pestonjī was subsequently forced to give up his Berār districts.

Berār made over to British administration.

All these proceedings damaged the State's credit, as Chandū Lāl's financing had hampered its revenue; and in 1843 and several succeeding years the pay of the Irregular Force maintained under the treaty of 1800 had to be advanced by the British Government. In 1850 it had again fallen into heavy arrears, and in 1853 the debt due to the British Government on account of this pay and other unsatisfied claims amounted to 45 lakhs. The bankruptcy of the State dis-

organized the administration, and the non-payment of the troops continued to be a serious political evil. Accordingly, in 1853, a new treaty was concluded with the Nizām, under which the Hyderābād Contingent was to be maintained by the British Government, while for the payment of this force, and in satisfaction of the other claims, districts yielding a gross revenue of 50 lakhs were assigned to the Company. The Berār districts 'assigned' by this treaty are now popularly understood to form the province of Berār, which was administered on behalf of the Government of India by the Resident at Hyderābād, though they coincide in extent neither with the Berār of the Nizāms nor with the imperial *Sūbah*. The territory made over under this treaty comprised, besides Berār, the district of Dhārāseo and the Raichūr *doāb*. It was agreed that accounts should be annually rendered to the Nizām, and that any surplus revenue should be paid to him. His Highness was released from the obligation of furnishing a large force in time of war, and the Contingent ceased to be a part of his army, and became an auxiliary force kept up by the British Government for his use.

The provisions of the treaty of 1853, which required the submission of annual accounts to the Nizām, were, however, productive of much inconvenience and embarrassing discussions. Difficulties had also arisen regarding the levy of customs duties under the commercial treaty of 1802. To remove these difficulties, and at the same time to reward the Nizām for his services in 1857, a new treaty was concluded in 1860, by which a debt of 50 lakhs due from him was cancelled; and he also received the territory of Sūrāpur, which had been confiscated for the rebellion of the Rājā, and the districts of Dhārāseo and Raichūr were restored to him. On the other hand, he ceded certain districts on the left bank of the Godāvari, traffic on which river was to be free from all duties, and agreed that Berār should be held in trust for the purposes specified in the treaty of 1853.

The history of Berār from 1853 to 1902 is marked by no important political events other than the changes made by the treaty of 1860. Its smooth course was scarcely ruffled even by the Mutiny of 1857. Whatever secret elements of disturbance may have been at work, the country remained calm, measuring its behaviour not by Delhi, but by Hyderābād. In 1858 Tāntiā Topī got into the Sātpurā Hills, and tried to break away to the south that he might stir up the Deccan;

but he was headed at all outlets and never reached the Berār valley.

Progress since the Mutiny.

The management of Berār by the Nizām's officials had been worse than the contemporary administration of the adjoining Nāgpur territory, which was, during a long minority, under British regency, and was subsequently well governed until it lapsed. There had consequently been wholesale emigration from Eastern Berār to the Districts beyond the Wardhā. When Berār came under British management the emigrants, with the usual attachment of Indian cultivators to their patrimony, the value of which had in this case been enhanced by much of it having remained fallow for some time, returned in thousands to Berār. This was only one mode out of several, which it would be tedious to detail, whereby cultivation was restored and augmented. Then supervened the American Civil War. The cultivation of cotton received an extraordinary stimulus, the peasants importing their supply of food-grains so that all available land might be devoted to the cultivation of the more profitable crop. Cotton requires much manual toil in weeding, picking, ginning, packing, and the like; and the increase in the area under it created a great demand for rural labour, which operated to raise the standard of wages. A great export of cotton to Bombay was soon established; and as the importation of foreign produce was far from proportionate, much of the return consisted of cash and bullion, so that prices rose and the labouring and producing classes were rapidly enriched. At the same time a line of railway was being laid across the province, causing the employment of all labour, skilled and unskilled, that could be got on the spot, and also introducing a large foreign element. The people became prosperous and contented, and progress in all departments was vast and rapid.

The *Census Report* of 1881 showed material advance. The cultivated area had increased by 50 per cent. and the land revenue by 42 per cent. since 1867. But although Berār escaped the widespread famine of 1876–8, the poorer classes undoubtedly suffered much hardship at that time, and cattle died by thousands for want of fodder. The next ten years were, on the whole, prosperous, though cholera, which generally appeared in an intense form every other year, caused great mortality. There was, however, an increase in trade, cultivation, and manufactures, and the population rose by 8 per cent. The ten years preceding 1901 were not, owing to natural causes, marked by a general increase in prosperity, but the province displayed considerable stability and power of resistance. There was but

one year in the decade, 1898, which could be described as very favourable, and even then the *rabi* crops partially failed. The other nine years were marked by unseasonable or deficient rainfall, poor harvests, sickness, and high mortality, culminating in 1899 and 1900, when famine was sore in the land. The population decreased by nearly 5 pe. cent. during the decade. But, notwithstanding all this, other statistics show steady progress and development. Cultivation has extended; the value of the import and export trade has increased; and the number of steam factories has risen by 84 per cent.

Lease of Berār to the Government of India.

It had gradually become apparent since 1860 that the maintenance of the Hyderābād Contingent on its old footing as a separate force was inexpedient and unnecessary, and also that the administration of so small a province as Berār as a separate unit was very costly. In 1902, therefore, a fresh agreement was entered into with the Nizām. This agreement reaffirmed His Highness's rights over Berār, which, instead of being indefinitely 'assigned' to the Government of India, was leased in perpetuity at an annual rental of 25 lakhs; and authorized the Government of India to administer the province in such manner as it might deem desirable, as well as to redistribute, reduce, reorganize, and control the Hyderābād Contingent, due provision being made, as stipulated in the treaty of 1853, for the protection of His Highness's dominions. In pursuance of this agreement the Contingent ceased, in March, 1903, to be a separate force, and was reorganized and redistributed as an integral part of the Indian army.

In October, 1903, Berār was transferred to the administration of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. For the present the rental paid to the Nizām is charged with an annual debit of 10 lakhs towards the repayment of loans made by the Government of India for famine expenditure in Berār and for famine and other expenditure in Hyderābād State. When these loans have been repaid, the Nizām will receive the full rent of 25 lakhs. The advantages secured to him by the new agreement are manifest. His rights over Berār have been reaffirmed, and he will receive 25 lakhs per annum, compared with a sum of between 8 and 9 lakhs which was the average surplus paid to him under the former treaties.

Archaeology.

The principal remains of archaeological or historical interest in Berār are the small cave monastery and the shrine of Shaikh Bāba at PĀTŪR; the *chhatrī* of Rājā Jai Singh and the fort at BĀLĀPUR; various massive stone temples attributed to the era of the Yādava Rājās of Deogiri, and locally known as Hemād-

panti temples, in the Chālukyan style; some Jain shrines, particularly that at SIRPUR; the hill-forts of GĀWĪLGARH and NARNĀLA; and the mosques at FATHKHELDA and ROHANKHED. The principal Hemādpanti temples are those at LONĀR, MEHKAR, BĀRSĪ TĀKLI, and PUSAD; but many others are scattered throughout the province.

Population. The population of Berār in 1901 was 2,754,016, or 155 persons per square mile. The distribution varies in accordance with the natural advantages of the three divisions of the province.

Density. Thus the density in the twelve *tāluks* of the Pāyānghāt varies from 150 to 311 persons per square mile, and that of the nine *tāluks* of the Bālāghāt from 85 to 150, while the population of the Melghāt is very sparse, the density being no more than 22 persons per square mile.

The table on the next page shows the population of the six Districts of the province in 1901. In 1905 the six Districts were rearranged; Ellichpur, Wūn, and Bāsim have been abolished, and a new District of Yeotmāl has been formed. The present distribution of area and population will be found in the several District articles.

'Villages.' The term 'village' denotes in Berār the area demarcated for revenue purposes as a *mauza* or *kasba*, *mazras* or hamlets being reckoned for census purposes as part of the principal village. The term 'town' includes every municipality and civil station, and villages with a population of 5,000 or more. The villages are agricultural communities, each with its hereditary officers and servants, the former paid by a percentage on collections and the latter by customary dues in kind. The *gaothān*, or village site, on which the houses are collected together, is not surrounded by a wall; but each village has its *garhī*, or fort, usually of earth, in which the village officers possess hereditary rights, but which was formerly used as a place of refuge by the whole community in troublous times.

Growth of population. The first Census of Berār, which was taken in 1867, disclosed a total population of 2,227,654. By 1881 this had increased to 2,672,673, and by 1891 to 2,897,491. The Census of 1901 showed a decrease to 2,754,016, or by 4·9 per cent., due to the famines of 1896–7 and 1899–1900, and to abnormally high mortality from disease in the years 1894–7 and 1900. One feature of the decade was the gravitation of an unusually large proportion of the people towards the towns, the percentage of urban population to the whole being 15·2 in 1901, compared with 12·5 in 1881.

Age. The deductions to be drawn from the age statistics in the

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN BERĀR, 1901

District.	Area in square miles.	Number of towns.	Number of villages.	Total Population.			Urban Population.			Persons per square mile in rural areas.
				Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	
Amraotī . . .	2,759	15	1,057	630,118	322,924	307,194	135,173	70,706	64,467	179
Akola	2,678	10	966	582,540	295,917	286,623	124,158	64,005	60,153	134
Ellichpur . . .	2,605	6	788	297,403	150,820	146,583	64,476	32,751	31,725	81
Buldāna . . .	2,809	6	870	423,616	211,739	211,877	41,430	21,296	20,134	136
Wūn	3,910	4	1,205	466,929	235,638	231,291	27,856	14,775	13,081	112
Bāsim . . .	2,949	3	824	353,410	177,262	176,148	26,358	13,461	12,897	111
Total	17,710	44	5,710	2,754,016	1,394,300	1,359,716	419,451	216,994	202,457	132

Census Report of 1901 may be thus summarized: infant mortality is greatest between the ages of one and two; the mortality among children born in the first half of the decade ending 1901 was considerably less than that among children born in the second half, the difference being attributable to the harder conditions of life in the second quinquennium; there is a general tendency to understate the age of marriageable girls; the last quinquennial period of life exhibited in the tables (55 to 60) is the most fatal; and famine and disease have principally affected the youngest and the oldest of the females, and the youngest and those over thirty among the males.

Vital statistics.

The registration of births and deaths is carried out with greater accuracy in Berār than in most of the Provinces of British India proper, though the entire population is not under registration. The following table shows the birth and death-rates and the principal fatal diseases in 1881, 1891, 1901, and 1903:—

	Population under registration.	Ratio of registered births per 1,000.	Ratio of registered deaths per 1,000.	Deaths per 1,000 from			
				Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Bowel complaints.
1881	2,630,018	39·9	29·1	1·3	0·1	15·8	4·5
1891	2,840,406	42·8	40·6	2·8	0·01	17·5	7·7
1901	2,717,346	30·8	27·6	0·006	0·07	13·9	4·4
1903	2,721,342	48·16	41·74	0·03	0·04	11·57	5·74

The variation between the birth- and death-rates in the different Districts is not constant, and it can hardly be said that any one District is conspicuously more healthy or unhealthy than the rest. The birth-rate seems to be usually highest in Buldāna. Throughout the early part of the decade ending 1901 birth- and death-rates were consistently lower in Wūn than elsewhere; but this was probably due to defective registration, as the District is no longer exceptional in this respect. Both birth- and death-rates were seriously affected by the famine of 1899–1900.

The most prevalent disease is fever, the deaths from which about equal in number those from all other causes. Bowel complaints are the next most frequent cause of death. Plague did not appear in Berār till 1903, and the Administration, in coping with it, profited by the experience gained in other Provinces. Evacuation and disinfection were the principal measures adopted.

Sex.

Males outnumber females by 34,584. It has been observed

since 1881 that male births outnumber females, but that throughout the first decade of life females outnumber males. It may therefore be inferred, allowing for the habit of understating the age of marriageable daughters, that female infanticide is unknown in Berār. The ratio of females to males is less in towns than in villages, for the towns contain male workers who leave their families behind them. The same circumstances affect the population of certain *tāluks*. The greater the commercial element in a *tāluk*, the less is the proportion of females to males.

Civil condition.

The following table gives statistics of civil condition for 1891 and 1901:—

Civil condition.	1891.			1901.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Unmarried . .	943,040	572,594	370,446	897,929	552,329	345,600
Married . . .	1,644,458	833,575	810,883	1,508,454	752,746	755,708
Widowed . . .	309,993	85,657	224,336	347,633	89,225	258,408
Total	2,897,491	1,491,826	1,405,665	2,754,016	1,394,300	1,359,716

Of the male population 40, 54, and 6 per cent., and of the female 25, 56, and 19 per cent., are single, married, and widowed respectively. Married males and females are fairly evenly balanced, so that it is evident that polygamy, though permitted by all the religions the followers of which are numerically important, is but sparingly practised. No relics of polyandry survive. Widow remarriage is prohibited, not only among the higher castes of Hindus, but also among the well-to-do in inferior castes, such as members of *deshmukh* families among Kunbīs. It is allowed and extensively practised among most of the agricultural castes, and is known as *pāt* or *mohtur*, in contradistinction to *lagna*, a word which is applied only to the marriage of a virgin bride. Among some tribes, Banjārās and Gonds for example, the levirate prevails: i. e. it is the duty of a man to take to wife the widow of his deceased elder brother, though to marry a younger brother's widow would be regarded as incestuous. Child marriage is the general rule among the higher castes of Hindus. Animists usually defer marriage until after the attainment of puberty, and allow greater freedom of choice to the parties concerned.

The joint-family system is the rule among Hindus in Berār. Ignorant Musalmāns too will assert in civil suits that they are members of an undivided family when they believe that the assertion may suit their interests.

Marāthī is spoken by nearly 80 per cent. of the population. The Musalmāns, 212,000 in number, speak a corrupt dialect of Urdū, popularly known as Musalmānī; other dialects of Western Hindī, returned as Hindī and Hindustāni, are spoken by immigrants from the United and Central Provinces. The Mārwārī dialect of Rājasthānī was spoken in 1901 by 41,521 traders and bankers from Mārwār. Gipsy dialects, of which Banjārī or Labhānī is the most important, were spoken by 68,879 persons. Of Dravidian languages Gondī and its dialects, of which the principal is Kolāmī, were spoken by 83,217 persons, and Telugu by 85,431, mostly dwellers in the south of Wūn District on the banks of the Pengangā. The only important Mundā language is Korkū, spoken by the Korkūs in the Melghāt and its neighbourhood. Nihālī is a moribund language of uncertain affinities, returned as the mother-tongue of 91 Nihāls, who, however, probably speak Korkū, defining it as Nihālī. English was returned as the mother-tongue of 653 persons. **Language.**

In this small province nearly four hundred castes and tribes are represented. The three chief groups coincide generally with the main religious divisions, Hindu, Muhammadan, and Animistic. Musalmāns call for little notice in this connexion. Many of them are descendants of converted Hindus. Shaikhs number 131,000; Pathāns, 52,000; Saiyids, 19,000; and Mughals, 4,000. **Caste, tribe, and race.**

The Kunbīs, the great cultivating caste of the Provinces, are the most important of the Hindu castes. They number 791,000, and predominate in every *tāluk* except the Melghāt. Very similar to them in all respects are the Mālis, numbering 193,000. The Kunbī is usually of medium height, dark-skinned from exposure, and wiry. As a cultivator he is moderately industrious, but devoid of enterprise and intelligent energy. Next to the Kunbīs the Mahārs, numbering 351,000, are the most numerous caste. The Mahār occupies an important, if humble, place in the village system of the Deccan. Socially he is regarded as an unclean outcaste whose touch is pollution. Similar to the Mahārs, but even more unclean, are the Māngs, who number 49,000. Other castes numerically important are: Telis (77,000), Dhangars (75,000), Brāhmans (73,000), Banjārās (60,000), Wānīs (41,000), and Rājputs (36,000). The indigenous Rājputs are not favourable specimens of their class, and it is doubtful whether their claim to pure descent would be admitted in Rājasthān.

The two principal aboriginal tribes are the Gonds and the

Korkūs, the former ordinary Dravidian and the latter Mundā. The Gonds number 69,000, or, if the cognate Kolāms and Parahāns be included, 96,000. They are very dark and usually slight and undersized, though exceptions are found among the division known as Rāj Gonds. The Korkūs number 26,000, and have their home in the north of the province among the Gāwīlgarh hills. Their physique is superior to that of the Gonds, and they are well-built and muscular, but their personal appearance is not pleasing. They are distinguished principally by their small eyes, large mouths, flat noses, and large and prominent ears.

Religion. The following table gives statistics for religions in 1891 and 1901. Hindus constituted 86·7 per cent. of the total population in the latter year. Since 1891 Hindus have lost absolutely 143,775 persons, Musalmāns have gained 4,359, and Animists have lost 7,144. All other religions, the followers of which are not numerous, have gained in all 3,085. There has been a large increase in Sikhs, which is rather apparent than real, as it is attributable solely to more correct enumeration. The increase among Musalmāns seems to have been due partly to their superior fecundity and partly to proselytizing efforts.

	1891.		1901.	
	Persons.	Percentage.	Persons.	Percentage.
Hindus	2,531,791	87·3	2,388,016	86·7
Animists	137,108	4·7	129,964	4·7
Musalmāns	207,681	7·1	212,040	7·6
Christians—				
Native	711	0·2	1,748	0·06
Other	648	0·2	627	0·02
Others	19,552	0·6	21,621	0·7

Of all the gods of the Hindu pantheon, Mahādeo and Māruti (Hanumān) probably receive the most attention. The latter has a shrine in every village. The cultivator propitiates Khāt Deo, the fertilizing god, who has his habitation in a white stone set up in a field; and local gods such as Chindiya Deo, 'the lord of tatters,' are worshipped. The 'godlings of disease' are propitiated as occasion arises. The only heterodox sect which calls for notice is that of the Mahānubhavas, or black-robed devotees, of whom a description is given in the account of RĪTPUR, their principal place of pilgrimage. This movement, which is a protest against polytheism, Brāhmanism, and, in a less degree, the caste system, is

rapidly declining. Islām presents no extraordinary features in Berār. Here, as elsewhere in India, the Musalmān villager has borrowed or inherited from his Hindu neighbour or ancestor many practices which precisians would condemn as superstitious. The Gonds and Korkūs, though still Animists, are tinged with Hinduism and worship Mahādeo as well as other Hindu gods; and the Korkūs worship also their own ancestors, both male and female.

The oldest Hindu temples of Berār are the Hemādpanti, already referred to. More recent temples have no distinctive features. In mosques examples of both the Pathān and the Mughal styles are found.

Christian missions. There are 14 Christian missions at work in the province—two Roman Catholic, one Church of England, and eleven other Protestant, among whom the Methodists and Presbyterians are the most important. The activity of these missions is evidenced by the fact that native Christians more than doubled in number between 1891 and 1901. The Christian missionaries did excellent work in the famines of 1896–7 and 1899–1900. For purposes of ecclesiastical jurisdiction Berār is in the Anglican and Roman Catholic dioceses of Nāgpur. Of the Christians in 1901, 888 belonged to the Roman, and 626 to the Anglican Church.

Occupation. Agriculture supports 73 per cent. of the population, and of every 100 persons so supported 71 are workers. The preparation and supply of material substances provide a living for 7¼ per cent. of the people, the principal sub-orders under this head being, in the order of their importance, (1) cotton; (2) textile fabrics and dress; (3) food, drink, and stimulants; (4) wood, cane, and leaves. Commerce supports 2½ per cent., and unskilled labour, not agricultural, nearly 2 per cent.

Food. The food of the agricultural and labouring classes consists chiefly of unleavened cakes of *jowār* (great millet) meal, with a seasoning of green vegetables, onions, *ghī*, chillies, or pulse, or a combination of two or more of these. Milk is an important article of diet; wheat and rice are luxuries. Goat's flesh is extensively eaten by Musalmāns, and less so by those Hindus to whom flesh is not forbidden as an article of diet. Few Musalmāns, except those living in towns and in some of the larger villages, eat beef. It is necessary for those in smaller villages to respect the prejudices of their Hindu neighbours, many of which they have adopted. The Mahārs, who are scavengers, are habitual eaters of beef in the form of carrion.

Dress. The ordinary dress of the cultivator or labourer consists of a *dhotī*, a short jacket, an *uparna* or upper cloth, and a red or white turban, the former being the favourite colour. The jacket is often discarded. Brāhmans and other respectable castes wear long coats and finer *uparnas* and turbans. Musalmāns frequently, though not invariably, substitute *paijāmas* and a long coat for the *dhotī* and short jacket, and their turbans display a greater variety of colour. The dress of the women consists of a *lugade* and a *cholī*. The former is the principal garment and corresponds to the *sārī*, being tied round the waist; the long end is taken over the head, and the front of the portion forming the skirt is carried back between the legs and tucked in at the waist behind, giving the wearer a singularly bunchy and ungraceful appearance. The *cholī* is a scanty bodice which confines the breasts. Muhammadan women often wear the common combination of trousers, shift, or *cholī*, and scarf, which is tied round the waist and carried over the head. Gond and Kolām women do not wear the *cholī*, but conceal the breasts by drawing the end of the *lugade* across them. The dress of the Banjārā women is especially picturesque.

Dwellings. The dwelling-houses of the agricultural classes are mostly of sun-dried brick roofed with thatch or tiles. *Dhābās*, or flat roofs of earth, are also common. The houses of labourers consist of one or two rooms, with a small *āngan* or yard enclosed by a mud wall in front of the house. The houses of the well-to-do are more pretentious, consisting of several rooms opening into a rectangular courtyard, along one side of which the cattle are usually stalled. The poorest classes live in huts of hurdles or grass mats daubed with mud. In the early part of the hot season, while the grain is being threshed and garnered, cultivators move with their cattle into their fields, where they live in spacious sheds in the vicinity of their threshing-floors.

Disposal of the dead. The higher castes among the Hindus burn their dead; Musalmāns, Hindus of the lower castes, and aboriginal tribes bury them. The Korkūs erect posts of teak, curiously carved, at the heads of graves. Among the Mahānubhavas and some other orders of ascetics the dead are buried in salt, in a sitting posture.

Amusements and festivals. The tastes of the agriculturist are essentially domestic; he has few amusements beyond his family circle except the enjoyment of village gossip, a weekly trip to the nearest market village, an occasional visit to a *jatra* or religious fair,

or, more rarely, a pilgrimage to a shrine of more than local celebrity.

The principal festivals observed are the Māndosī, the Akshay-yatritya, the Nāgapanchamī, the Polā, the Mahālakshmī, the Pitrapaksha, or feast to *manes* of male ancestors, the Dasara, the Divāli, the Sivarātrī, and the Shimgā or Holī. The three most important feasts to the cultivator are the Holī, the Polā, and the Dasara; and at these burning questions of social precedence, often ending in criminal complaints, arise between different branches of the families of *pātels* or hereditary headmen of villages. At the Polā festival the plough cattle are worshipped. A rope called *toran* is then stretched across two upright poles, and the cattle of the villagers, gaily decorated, are led beneath it, headed by those belonging to members of the *pātel's* family in the order of their seniority.

Nomenclature.

Hindus of all castes in Berār have three names. The first is the personal name and corresponds to the Christian name of a European, the second is the father's personal name, and the third is the family surname. Thus Ganpat Raojī Sindhya would be Ganpat, the son of Raojī, of the Sindhya family or clan.

Agriculture. General conditions.

The three natural divisions of Berār have already been described. The Melghāt, or northern division, is extremely rugged, and is broken into a succession of hills and deep valleys. The hilly portion consists of basaltic and calcareous rock, and the soil in the valleys and ravines is a light brown alluvium, overlying basalt accumulated from superficial rain-wash from the hills. This light brown soil, extending to about 8 or 10 miles from the foot of the hills towards the valley of the Pūrna, is cultivable, but is less rich than the soil of the valley itself. The Bālāghāt, or southern division, is formed of undulating high land of the Deccan trap. The plateaux are covered with fairly rich soil, and the soil of the intermediate valleys is an alluvium of loam of remarkably fine quality and very suitable for wheat.

The Pāyānghāt, or central valley of Berār, contains the best land in the province: a deep, rich, black, and exceedingly fertile loam, often of great depth, with very thick underlying strata of yellow clay and lime. Where this rich soil does not exist, as in the immediate vicinity of hills, *murum* and trap are found with a shallow upper crust of inferior light soil. A great deal of the Pūrna alluvium produces efflorescences, chiefly of salts of soda, and many of the wells sunk in this tract have brackish water. The climate of Berār has already been described.

It may be briefly characterized as intensely hot and dry in the months of March, April, and May, and temperate for the rest of the year, with moderate rainfall between June and October.

Systems of cultivation.

Cotton, *jowār* (great millet), *tuar* (pulse), and sesamum are the *kharīf* or monsoon crops; and wheat, linseed, and gram the principal *rabi* or cold-season crops. In 1903-4, of the total area cropped, nearly 87 per cent. was devoted to *kharīf* and 13 per cent. to *rabi*, only ½ per cent. being irrigated.

The areas sown with *kharīf* and *rabi* crops vary according to the rainfall and market prices, and their extent is also partly regulated by the system of rotation of crops in vogue. If the rains begin well in June, a large area is sown with *kharīf*, but if they are late more land is kept for *rabi*. Thus in 1891, 1,390 square miles were sown with wheat, the principal *rabi* crop, while in 1903-4, after several years of inadequate late rains, the area so sown had fallen to 710 square miles.

Preparation.

The cultivator generally commences the preparation of his field in January. The rich black soil of the plains is not worked with the *nāngar* or heavy plough for several years together, unless it should be overgrown with grass or weeds; but the lighter soil of the upland country is ploughed nearly every year, especially when the land is reserved for a *rabi* crop. Ploughing is generally commenced soon after the crop of the year has been removed from the ground; if it be deferred longer, the soil dries and hardens and becomes difficult to work. Land that has been lying fallow cannot be ploughed until the first monsoon rain has fallen. Parallel furrows are not considered sufficient for hard soil, which is therefore cross-ploughed, the second operation being at right angles to the first. Harrowing succeeds, or, in the case of fields which do not require ploughing every year, takes the place of ploughing. The first harrowing is done with the *moghada*, a large, heavy harrow drawn by four bullocks. This turns up the earth in large clods, and brings roots, grass, and weeds to the surface. The soil is then cross-harrowed with the *wakhar*, a lighter implement drawn by two bullocks, which breaks up the clods and cleans the soil. In some cases the soil is harrowed again at intervals of a few days, in order that it may be thoroughly levelled and pulverized. The *kharīf* sowings take place immediately after the first regular monsoon fall of rain in June, and the *rabi* sowings in September or October.

Weeding.

Weeding is commenced when the soil dries during the first break in the rains. It is done with the *daora*, a two-bladed hoe which is drawn by two bullocks, and removes the weeds

from two of the interstices between the rows of plants at once, the weeds growing among the plants being removed by hand. Three or four weedings in a season are generally considered sufficient, but the more industrious cultivators often use the hoe every fortnight until the crop is sufficiently strong to smother all surface weeds.

Cotton.

Cotton pods are usually ready for picking about the end of October, and this light work is generally done by women and children. Payment is, as a rule, made in kind, each labourer receiving from one-twelfth to one-eighth of the day's picking. From the short staple variety of cotton which the Berār cultivator now grows he can obtain, if the crop is good, from five to seven pickings at intervals of fifteen or twenty days; but the superior *bani* and *jari* varieties, the latter of which is now extinct in Berār, will not yield a second picking under a month, and the crop is generally exhausted in three pickings. The cultivator finds that the short staple is easier to raise and pays him just as well, for although he gets a lower price the crop is more plentiful.

Before the establishment of ginning factories in the province almost every cultivator had his own seed for sowing cleaned by hand. Ginning by steam-power was first introduced in 1887–8, in which year there were only four factories working. In 1901 these had increased to 121, and there is every prospect of a further development of this industry.

Jowār.

Jowār ripens early in December, and is reaped by men, the ears being afterwards separated from the stalks by women. The stalks, called *kadba* or *kadbi*, are stacked, and furnish the principal fodder-supply for cattle. The ears are conveyed to the threshing-floor, where bullocks tread out the grain, moving round a central pole. Six bullocks can thresh a *khandi* (about 14 cwt.) in two days. The threshed grain is winnowed in a breeze. One man stands on a tripod, while another hands up to him a basketful of grain from the threshing-floor. As he slowly empties the basket, the chaff is carried away by the wind and the grain falls to the ground.

Population dependent on agriculture.

Of the total population of Berār in 1901, 73·2 per cent. were supported by agriculture. The details are as follows:—

Persons interested in land, landholders, tenants, co-sharers, &c.	561,912
Agricultural labourers, &c.	1,452,221
Growers of fruit, vegetables, &c.	586
Total	2,014,719

The principal crops in the order of their importance are

Principal crops. cotton, *jowār*, wheat, linseed, gram, *tuar* or *arhar*, and sesamum. *Jowār* and wheat are the staple food-grains, rice and *bājra*, and, among pulses, *tuar* and gram, being subsidiary food-crops. Oilseeds are represented by sesamum and linseed; fibres by cotton; condiments by chillies; and drugs and narcotics by tobacco. The cotton crop comes into the market at the end of October or beginning of November, and the supply is maintained by successive pickings throughout the cold season. *Jowār* is not available till later, about January and the beginning of February. Owing to recent years of famine and scarcity, there has been an increase in the area under *jowār*. In 1903-4 *jowār* occupied 4,414 square miles, or 38 per cent. of the whole cultivated area of the province; and cotton 4,455 square miles, also 38 per cent.

Yield of crops. The approximate yield per acre of the principal crops is as follows, to the nearest hundredweight: cotton, uncleaned 4, cleaned 1; *jowār*, 8; wheat, 6; linseed, 4; gram, 6; sesamum, 3; *tuar*, 3.

Manure. The Berār cultivator manures very little, not because he fails to appreciate the advantages to be derived from manure, but because he is unable to obtain a sufficient supply. Cattle-dung is generally the only kind procurable, and so much of this is used as fuel that little remains for the fields.

In 1903-4 only 0·7 per cent. of the cropped area was irrigated, wells being practically the only source of irrigation, which is confined, with few exceptions, to garden produce.

Rotation of crops. The necessity of a rotation of crops, to prevent exhaustion of the soil, is thoroughly understood. On light soil cotton and *jowār* are grown in alternate years; on the rich black soil of the plains cotton, *jowār*, and *rabi* crops succeed one another. In the third year a plurality of crops will probably be grown, wheat, gram, and linseed or *lākh* being raised in various plots of the same field. In the present decline of *rabi* cultivation, cotton and *jowār* follow one another year after year on the same land, the fertility of which is thus much impaired, as the smaller cultivators cannot afford to let their fields lie fallow.

Extension of cultivation, &c. The following figures show the increase of cultivation in Berār during the last twenty-four years, in square miles:—

	1881.	1891.	1901.	1903-4.
Assessed cultivable land in occupation .	11,425	12,053	12,593	12,717
Assessed cultivable land under cultivation	10,377	10,414	10,989	11,465

The occupied land not cropped is principally reserved for

grazing. Except in Wūn District, where about 7 per cent. remains to be taken up, and in the Melghāt, where nearly 30 per cent. is still unoccupied, most of the cultivable land is now occupied. In Bāsim District much of the excess grazing land has recently been set aside for cultivation. The demand for land in Wūn District is steadily increasing year by year. A decrease of cultivation in the Melghāt is due to the emigration of Korkūs in the famine of 1899–1900. Liberal concessions, which should tend to restore prosperity, have been granted.

Little is done towards the improvement of the quality of crops by selection of seed or by the introduction of new varieties, and there is no experimental farm in the province. As already remarked, the cultivator has allowed the quality of the cotton crop to deteriorate in order to obtain a greater yield. Seed separated from the fibre by the steam-ginning process is said to be less fecund than the seed of hand-ginned cotton.

A department of Land Records and Agriculture was formed in 1891, but its work has hitherto been confined to survey and settlement.

Working of the Loans Acts.

The benefits of the Agriculturists' Loans Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act are naturally appreciated most highly in years of scarcity and famine. The delay in disbursing loans allowed under these Acts was for a long time an obstacle in the way of their popularity, but experience gained in years of famine has led to the simplification of procedure; and there seems to be a fair field for the success of agricultural banks.

Cattle, horses, &c.

The very few horses in Berār are inferior animals and merit no notice. Ponies are more numerous, but are weedy. An attempt was made by Government for a few years to improve the breed by keeping Arab stallions at the head-quarters of Districts, but was abandoned about 1893 as a failure. The breed of cattle proper to the province is known as Gaorani or Berāri, of which there are two distinct varieties, the Umarda and the Khāmgaon, the former being the smaller. Animals of this breed are hardy, active, and enduring, and can easily cover 30 miles within six or eight hours. A pair will sometimes cover 40 or 50 miles in a day. The Khāmgaon breed is more adapted to heavy draught. This breed is found in the Khāmgaon, Bālāpur, Chikhlī, Jalgaon, and part of the Akot *tālŭks*; the Umarda breed elsewhere. Indiscriminate crossing, the neglect of stock cattle, and fodder famines have contributed to the deterioration of both breeds. On the eastern borders there are very distinct indications of the influence of the Arvī or Gaulgani breed, and on the southern border of that of the breeds

of cattle found in the Nizām's Dominions. The recent prevalence of famine has necessitated the importation of working, and, to a smaller extent, of milch cattle. The breeds most commonly imported have been the Nimāri, Sholāpuri, Labbāni, and Hoshangābādi; cattle of the Mālwi, Gujarāti, and Surati breeds are less frequently seen.

Buffaloes in the north and east of the province are of the Nāgpuri, and elsewhere of the Dakhani breed. Since the famine of 1899–1900 buffaloes have been imported from Central India. These, which are distinguished by the comparative smallness of their heads and horns, are locally known as Mālwi. The sheep and goats are inferior animals, and the herdsmen, mostly Dhangars, lack the means and the knowledge necessary to the improvement of the breed. In towns goats of the Gujarāt breed are found, and these are said to be good milch animals.

Large Umarda bullocks fetch about Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 each, small Umarda bullocks from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40, and Khāmgaon bullocks from Rs. 50 to Rs. 70. Bullocks of other breeds cost from Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 each, and cows from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25, the Berār cow being a poor milch animal. Buffaloes are sold at from Rs. 20 to Rs. 70 each, sheep at from Rs. 2–8 to Rs. 3–8, and goats at from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10. The price of a pony varies from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50.

Cattle suffered severely in the scarcity of 1896–7 and the famine of 1899–1900, and the mortality was great; but large importations have gone far towards making good the deficiency. The grazing lands are sufficient, except in parts of the Pūrna valley, such as the Akot and Daryāpur *tāluks*. In the upland country almost every village has a certain area of land set apart for free grazing. In 1903–4 the grazing area was 335 square miles, of which 245 were Government land set apart for free grazing and 90 were held by private occupants. *Kadba*, or *jowār* stalks, form the principal fodder-supply, and the plough cattle of the richer cultivators are partly fed on cotton seed.

Cattle fairs.

There is only one cattle fair in the province, held at Wūn in February or March. Some fine cattle are brought to this fair and fetch good prices; but the fair has not been held regularly of late years, for fear of importing plague. Ponies are brought in considerable numbers to the Deūlgaon Rājā fair in Buldāna District, held in September in connexion with the festival of Bālājī. The principal weekly cattle markets in the province are those at Umarda, Digras, and Nandūra.

Prevalent cattle diseases.

Rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, and anthracoid diseases such as *charbon symptomatique*, are the commonest infectious

diseases, the two former being much more frequent than the third. Anthrax is rare, and *surra* has occurred only once among the ponies on a *dāk* line. The Civil Veterinary department has published a leaflet of instructions for the prevention of the spread of contagious diseases. This has been widely circulated; a system of registration of cattle disease has been introduced; and on receipt of reports of outbreaks veterinary assistants are deputed to carry out suppressive measures and to treat the sick. Veterinary dispensaries are being established at *tāluk* head-quarters. The publication of a manual of simple veterinary instructions in the vernacular has been delayed for want of funds. Bacteriological researches have been commenced, and inoculation with anti-rinderpest serum is carried on.

Irrigation.

Irrigation is rare except for garden crops, which are irrigated almost entirely from wells, the water-lift being the *mot* or leathern bucket, raised by two bullocks. The average cost of construction of a permanent well is from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 when specially expensive blasting operations have not to be undertaken, or from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per foot of depth; and the area irrigated by a single well is about four acres. The depth of permanent wells varies from 20 to 90 feet. Temporary wells, such as those found in Gujarāt, are not in use in Berār, as the water is not sufficiently near to the surface; but excavations known as *jhiras* are very commonly made in the beds of streams, in the hot season, for the purpose of obtaining drinking water.

Rents, wages, and prices. Rents.

Berār being settled on the *ryotwāri* system, the rent of a cultivator may ordinarily be taken as the land revenue paid by him to Government. In the comparatively few villages held under other tenures, the holder of the village is not in any way restricted by legislation as regards the rent which he is entitled to demand, except that in *ijāra* villages those tenants who occupied their holdings when the village was leased are entitled to hold at rates not exceeding those demanded by Government for similar land in adjacent *khālsa* villages. This privilege is restricted to land actually held before the lease. The control of rent by legislation has not been found necessary, for rack-renting is impossible at present. Statistics of rent actually paid in alienated villages are not available; but the Government assessment per acre, which may be taken as a fair standard, varies from Rs. 2–12 to Rs. 1–14 in the Pāyānghāt and from Rs. 2 to Rs. 1–2 in the Bālāghāt. Of tenants holding under occupants there are three classes: tenants paying money rent, tenants paying rent in kind on the *batai* system, and *potlā-*

wanidārs or tenants-at-will, who pay rent either in money or in kind, the landlord meeting the revenue demand. The *batai* sub-tenure, which is in all respects similar to the *mezzadria* or *metayer* system, is very common in Berār, but less so than formerly, as it is being replaced by leases for money, owing to much of the land having fallen into the hands of classes which do not cultivate. Statistics of the money rent usually paid are not available. The ordinary conditions of *batai* are that the lessor receives half the produce and pays the land revenue, while the lessee bears all the expenses of cultivation and takes the other half. Sometimes the lessee contributes a proportion, not exceeding one-third, of the land revenue, or agrees to pay half the land revenue and hands over to the lessor one-fourth only of the produce. For garden land the lessee, as a rule, delivers only one-third of the produce, as the expense of cultivating land of this class is heavy.

STATISTICS OF AGRICULTURE IN BERĀR

(In square miles)

	1881-90 (average).	1891-1900 (average).	1900-1.	1902-3.
Total area	17,715	17,737	17,744	17,763
Total uncultivated area	7,489	7,479	5,211	4,650
Cultivable, but not cultivated	2,830	2,604	1,270	2,181
Uncultivable	4,659	4,890	384	378
Total cultivated area	10,226	10,258	10,651	11,465
Irrigated from canals	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*
,, ,, wells	66	85	106	58
,, ,, other sources	2	2	1	1
Total irrigated area	68	87	107	59
Unirrigated area	10,158	10,171	10,544	11,406
*Cropped area.**				
Rice	35	57	80	54
Wheat	1,346	926	389	707
Jowār	3,405	3,594	4,520	4,414
Pulses	849	786	798	929
Oilseeds	964	732	580	606
Cotton	3,266	3,302	3,819	4,455
Condiments and spices	47	49	93	68
Orchard and garden produce	24	37	65	44
Tobacco	36	27	25	23
Miscellaneous	254	202	288	193

NOTE.—Up to 1896 the figures are for the year ending March 31, and subsequently for the year ending July 31.

* This includes the area double cropped, which amounted to only 5 square miles in 1900-1, and to 30 square miles in 1903-4.

Wages. The average daily wage for the last thirty years is R. 0-11-7 for skilled and R. 0-3-4 for unskilled labour, the rates for the province in different years ranging between R. 0-12-9½ and R. 0-9-1 and R. 0-3-11 and R. 0-2-7. The lowest rates are

those of the famine year 1899–1900, when food was only less costly than it was in the following year. There was a similar though far less marked fall of wages in 1896–7, which was a year of scarcity and high prices, and it has been observed that wages do not rise with the rise in the price of food. In years of famine, however, Government steps in as an employer of labour, and provides all those in actual want with a living wage.

Wages vary from year to year in different Districts and localities, but the variations are not constant and are due to ephemeral and not to permanent local conditions. The Melghāt *tāluk*, where wages are ordinarily lower than elsewhere, is an exception. Though wages have from time to time fluctuated during the past thirty years, they have, on the whole, varied so little that it cannot be said that they have been affected by the introduction of factory labour. The railway has, however, reduced wages for skilled labour, which could always command R. 1 per diem before the railway, by facilitating communication, brought the rate down to that which prevailed in other Provinces.

The average prices of the principal food-grains, in seers and chittacks per rupee, in 1903–4 were as follows: *jowār*, 22–1; wheat, 10–7; gram, 14–13; rice, 8–12. These are slightly above the standard, but prices were much disturbed by the famine of 1899–1900, and are returning to the normal by slow degrees. Prices vary considerably in different Districts from year to year; but as the variations are not constant, they furnish no materials for an estimate of the conditions of any particular locality. Prices.

The increase in the cultivated area seems to have had no effect on prices, but the natural tendency of this increase towards the reduction of prices may have been counteracted by the improvement in means of communication. This improvement has not affected the price of *jowār*, which is not grown for export; and though wheat is dearer now than it was thirty years ago, it is doubtful whether the rise in price is due to increased facilities for exportation. The effect of famine on prices is very marked. Thus in 1895–6 *jowār* sold at nearly 23 seers for the rupee, while in the following year, which was a season of scarcity, only $11\frac{2}{3}$ seers could be obtained for that sum. In 1898–9 a rupee purchased $27\frac{2}{3}$ seers, but in the famine year which followed it would purchase no more than $18\frac{1}{3}$ seers, in spite of low prices in the early part of the year; while in 1900–1 the average rate was $11\frac{1}{2}$ seers for the rupee, 5, 6, or 7 seers being the ordinary rate during the first six months

of the year 1900, when the effects of the famine were most severely felt.

Another cause sometimes operates to reduce the price of grain. Thus, in 1880–1, 38 seers, and in 1884–5, 30½ seers of *jowār* could be purchased for a rupee. The fall in price was attributed in each case to the late rains, which in the former year made it impossible to store grain, and in the latter damaged the grain already stored.

PRICES OF CERTAIN STAPLES IN BERĀR

	Average price (in seers per rupee) for ten years ending			1903-4.
	1880.	1890.	1900.	
Jowār	21·5	26·15	20·1	22·04
Wheat	14·9	18·7	12·5	10·46
Gram	15·5	21·6	14·0	14·81
Rice	9·13	10·0	8·0	8·78
Salt	Not available	10·15*	9·15	10·75

* Average for seven years only.

Standard of comfort. The standard of comfort in Berār, though not high, is probably no lower than in any other rural tract in India. The house of the middle-class clerk, for which he probably pays a rent varying from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 a month, is scantily furnished. His food costs him but little, for he is, in all probability, a Brāhman, and therefore a vegetarian; but he uses such luxuries as wheat, rice, milk, *ghī*, and sweetmeats more freely than does the cultivator. His clothes are of fine cotton cloth, the *dhotī* having usually a border of silk, and he wears a silken turban; but the whole outfit is so seldom renewed that it costs him comparatively little. The cultivator's style of living and the character of his house depend on the size of his holding; but the distinction between the well-to-do and the impoverished cultivator consists largely in the quantity and quality of the jewellery worn by the women of the family. The cultivator's clothes are of coarse cotton cloth. The labourer's standard of living is similar to the cultivator's, but lower. His house is smaller and meaner, his cooking pots fewer, his food scantier, and his family jewellery less costly. There has been no perceptible change in the standard of living of these classes. So little does the cultivator understand physical comfort that when he was suddenly and temporarily enriched by the rise in the price of cotton, which was one of the results of the American Civil War, he was sometimes unable to find a better outlet for his wealth

than the replacement of his iron ploughshares and cart-wheel tires by shares and tires of silver.

Forests. Classes of forest.

The Berār forests are divided into three classes: (A) areas reserved for the production of timber and fuel; (B) *ramnas*, or areas reserved for the growth of grass for fodder; and (C) grazing lands[1]. The tree growth has already been described under Botany.

Administration.

The forests are under the control of a Conservator, subordinate to whom are five Forest officers in charge of divisions, which are conterminous with administrative Districts except in the case of the Buldāna division, which includes both Buldāna and Akola Districts. Forests of Class A are carefully protected from fire and grazing, except during a severe famine, when they are sometimes thrown open to grazing. The forests of Class C, which are primarily pasture lands, fall under two divisions: those in which grazing is regulated and paid for, and those in which grazing is free.

Only a small proportion of forest produce is extracted by departmental agency. The greater part is removed by purchasers and privilege-holders, or by those to whom special free grants have been made. The administration of the forests has been sympathetic, and the relations of the Forest department with the people are generally excellent. The forests supply the local demand for timber, fuel, bamboos, and fodder, exports beyond the limits of the province being usually unimportant: they also serve as reserves of fuel and fodder, the existence of which was much appreciated by the people in the famine of 1899–1900, when the opening of forests of Class A to grazing saved the lives of thousands of cattle and provided large supplies of fodder.

Preventive measures against fire are carried out. Such fires as occur are usually the result of carelessness and neglect of forest regulations.

Forest area and receipts.

The area of forest lands in the province in 1903–4 was 3,941 square miles, of which Class A forests occupied 1,770, Class B 83, and Class C 2,088 square miles. The average revenue, expenditure, and surplus for the ten years ending 1900 were Rs. 4,64,000, Rs. 2,32,000, and Rs. 2,32,000 respectively, while in 1903–4 the revenue was Rs. 6,13,000, the expenditure Rs. 2,56,000, and the surplus Rs. 3,57,000.

Minerals.

There are at present no mines, but the prospects of successful

[1] A new class of state forests called 'Village fuel and pasture reserves' will shortly be formed, and will remain under the control of the Revenue department.

coal-mining in the south-eastern corner of the province are good.

Arts and manufactures.

The manufactures are few and unimportant. They are chiefly confined to twist and yarn, coarse cotton cloth, and the productions of unskilled craftsmen. Silk-weaving is carried on at Kholāpur in Amraotī District, where *pītāmbars* are made; cotton carpets are woven at Akot and Ellichpur; *sārīs*, turbans, *khādīs*, and blankets are made in several parts of the province, and *khādīs* of different textures and colours at Ellichpur and Wūn. There are also communities of dyers in some towns and villages, but their work calls for no special notice. The only spinning and weaving mill in the province, at Badnera, is the property of the Berār Manufacturing Company, Limited. It started work in 1885, and produces yarn and cotton cloth. The following table gives some statistics of its progress:—

	1890-1.	1900-1.	1903-4.
Number of looms	214	248	248
Number of spindles	16,580	16,992	16,336
Hands employed	843	1,228	882

In 1891 it worked up 17,128 cwt. of raw cotton into yarn and cloth, and in 1901 it similarly worked up 25,288 cwt. of raw cotton. The out-turn in 1902-3 was 21,337 cwt. of yarn and 9,689⅓ cwt. of cloth. The greater part of its produce is sold locally. The monthly wages of skilled labour in this factory vary from Rs. 35 to Rs. 5-4, and those of unskilled labour from Rs. 8 to Rs. 5. The most important industry in the province is the ginning and pressing of cotton in steam factories. The following table shows the rapid advance made during the last twenty-four years:—

	1881.	1891	1903.
Number of ginning factories	...	48	153
Number of steam presses	6	27	59

Migration from rural areas into towns is principally due to the growth of this industry. The supply of labour is adequate, and the great majority of the hands employed belong to the province. A man earns on an average Rs. 9 to Rs. 9-8, a woman from Rs. 4-12 to Rs. 5, and a child from Rs. 4-3 a month. The material condition of the factory hands is good.

Commerce and trade.

The only information concerning the trade of Berār prior to the Assignment in 1853 relates to raw cotton, the principal

product of the province. The first exportation direct to Bombay was made by Messrs. Pestonjī & Co., merchants of Bombay and Hyderābād, in 1825–6. It consisted of 500 bullock-loads, weighing 120,000 lb. and valued at Rs. 25,000. General Balfour, writing in 1847, said that the trade had by that time been principally diverted to Bombay, but that most of the Berār cotton had formerly been taken 500 miles on pack-bullocks to Mirzāpur and there shipped in boats for Calcutta. After the Assignment, the extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Bhusāwal to Nāgpur and the construction of metalled roads greatly stimulated the trade with Bombay, and the pack-bullock became a thing of the past. **Trade prior to Assignment.**

The chief centres of trade are Amraotī, Akola, Khāmgaon, and Shegaon; and the channels of trade are the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and the metalled roads connecting it with trade centres of minor importance. The table on the next page shows the general character of the trade of Berār. The enormous increase in the importation of grain and pulse in the decade ending 1900–1 is attributable to the large importations during 1896–7 and 1899–1900, which were years of scarcity and famine. There is no Chamber of Commerce in the province. **Trade centres.**

The internal trade is unimportant and calls for little notice. The agriculturist or labourer buys what he wants at weekly markets held at the old *pargana* towns and other large villages. Cotton cloth and yarn manufactured in the Badnera mills, and silken *pītāmbars* or *lugades* made in the province, are among the principal articles of internal commerce besides agricultural produce. The weaving castes are the Sālīs and Koshtīs, and the Mahārs weave coarse blankets. Kāsārs and Lohārs make the ordinary utensils of brass, copper, and iron. The ordinary earthen utensils used by the people are made by Kumhārs, the tiles used for roofing purposes being made principally by members of this caste from Northern India, who visit Berār during the cold and hot seasons, returning to their homes before the rains break. **Internal trade.**

Berār, being an inland province, has no registered trade beyond the frontiers of India, but the greater part of the surplus produce of raw cotton and grain and pulse is exported by sea from Bombay. **External trade.**

Experience has shown that the road-borne trade is not worth registering; and the external trade of the province may be briefly described as consisting of the export by railway of agricultural produce, chiefly raw cotton, and the import by the

same means of simple necessaries of life, manufactured articles, and a few luxuries not produced locally.

STATISTICS OF THE VALUE OF THE TRADE OF BERĀR WITH OTHER PROVINCES OF INDIA FOR 1890–1, 1900–1, AND 1903–4

(In thousands of rupees)

	By rail.		
	1890–1.	1900–1.	1903–4.
Imports.			
Cotton twist and yarn	8,71	5,99	7,04
,, piece-goods	43,13	41,21	48,15
Grain and pulse	17,17	91,09	55,77
Metals and manufactures of metals	16,02	21,02	58,20
Oils	10,79	9,82	13,18
Provisions	18,96	25,52	30,63
Salt	14,01	13,49	12,66
Spices	14,18	12,68	13,86
Sugar	22,52	30,47	35,02
All other articles	22,88	21,50	72,22
Total	1,88,37	2,72,79	3,46,73
Treasure	...	1,65,96	2,43,25
Exports.			
Cotton goods	11,11	47,16	7,23
,, raw	3,20,97	3,37,44	5,87,19
Grain and pulse	14,16	7,54	84
Oilseeds	36,17	41,92	32,75
Provisions	3,04	2,16	1,47
Spices	84	1,55	88
Sugar	42	2,03	1,96
All other articles	14,51	14,93	26,11
Total	4,01,22	4,54,73	6,58,43
Treasure	...	22,03	82,39

Means of communication. Railways.

Berār is traversed from east to west by the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the length of the line in the province being 152 miles. From this main line two small state railways branch off, one from Jalam to Khāmgaon (8 miles), and the other from Badnera to Amraotī (6 miles). The Khāmgaon and Amraotī State Railways are worked by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company. The capital outlay on the former was 5·2 lakhs, and on the latter 4·5 lakhs. During the ten years ending 1901–2 their receipts averaged Rs. 52,100 and Rs. 98,900, and their expenditure was Rs.

30,600 and Rs. 59,000; and their net profits averaged Rs. 21,500, or 4·12 per cent. on the capital outlay, and Rs. 39,900, or 8·82 per cent. on the capital outlay. There is one mile of railway in the province to every 107 square miles of country.

The railway has proved to be of the greatest use and benefit to the people in years of famine, large supplies of food-grains having been imported, especially in 1899–1900, from long distances, as in the case of rice, which was imported from Burma via Calcutta. The tendency of railway traffic is to bring about uniformity of prices. Thus scarcity in other parts will now undoubtedly cause a rise in prices in Berār, which would probably not have occurred at all, or would have been more gradual and less marked, before the introduction of railway communication; but, on the other hand, the railway prevents countless deaths from starvation when the crops in Berār fail, so that the advantages of railway communication in this respect far outweigh its disadvantages. The railway may have removed or modified some caste prejudices; but, so far as has been observed, these prejudices seem to be merely in abeyance during a journey, the social habits of the people being unaffected by the temporary relaxation of customary restrictions. The effect on language in Berār is not noticeable.

The railway has altered the entire course of communications. Roads. Instead of the single line of communication provided by the old Nāgpur *dāk* road, which traversed the province from south-west to north-east, the main line of communication is now provided by the railway, with a system of feeder-roads running north and south from it. Thus to the south there are roads connecting the railway (1) with Yeotmāl, Wūn, and Dārwhā; (2) with Kāranja and Bāsim; (3) with Bāsim, Pusad, Umarkhed, and Hingolī; and (4) with Buldāna, Chikhlī, and Mehkar; while to the north roads run (1) to Morsī and Warud, (2) to Ellichpur and Chikalda, (3) to Daryāpur, (4) to Akot, and (5) to Jālgaon. The result of this extension of the road system has been that wheeled transport has completely displaced pack transport, and the Banjārā has lost his former means of livelihood. The main lines of roads are Provincial, the District boards having as yet taken charge of very few roads. There was no important change in the road system of the province between 1891 and 1903. The total length of Provincial roads was 857 miles in 1891 and 862 miles in 1903, the cost of maintenance per mile being Rs. 436 in 1891 and Rs. 202 in 1903. For roads maintained at the cost of Local funds no figures are available. These consist

principally of a few fair-weather tracks, unmetalled and practically unbridged.

The conveyances in general use are the *bandī*, a large cart used for carrying cotton and other agricultural produce; the *kācher*, a two-wheeled cart capable of holding several persons; and the *rengī*, a small and very light cart drawn by trotting bullocks, and capable of holding one or at most two persons besides the driver.

Post office. Berār forms, for postal purposes, a part of the Central Provinces and Berār Circle, which is in the charge of a Deputy-Postmaster-General. The following statistics show the advance in postal business in the province since 1880 :—

	1880-1.	1890-1.	1900-1.	1903-4.
Number of post offices	102	69	164	186
Number of letter-boxes	167†	116†	125†	156
Number of miles of postal communication	939	1,567	1,485	1,251½
Total number of postal articles delivered :—				
Letters . .	*	2,614,485†	2,925,579†	2,649,296
Postcards . .	*	1,176,734†	2,254,284†	2,667,730
Packets . .	*	122,513†	411,026†‡	242,034‡
Newspapers .	*	311,397†	244,394†‖	435,474‖
Parcels . .	*	26,002†	42,992†	39,384
Value of stamps sold to the public . Rs.	42,668†	88,169†	1,16,624†	Not available
Value of money orders issued . . Rs.	*	27,26,810†	45,66,560†	37,92,138
Total amount of savings bank deposits Rs.	...	*	8,68,905†	12,07,720

* The figures are included in those given for the Central Provinces.
† The figures marked thus include the figures for the post offices in Hyderābād State included in the Central Provinces and Berār Postal Circle.
‡ Including unregistered newspapers.
‖ Registered as newspapers in the Post Office.

The statistics given above relate to both the Imperial and the local or District post. The latter system provided postal communications required for magisterial and police purposes, the upkeep of which was not warranted under the commercial principles of the Post Office. It was maintained by contributions from District boards supplemented by a Government grant. The number of District post offices in 1904 was 30, and the total length of District post mail lines 554 miles. Official correspondence conveyed entirely over District post lines was carried free. The two systems were amalgamated in 1905.

Famine. Berār was for many years considered to be specially

favoured by nature; and so lately as 1893 it was officially reported that no programme of relief works was required, as the province was immune from famine. The Administration was thus utterly unprepared to cope with distress arising from scarcity when in 1896 the crops partly failed. General conditions.

Scarcity and famine in Berār, as in most other parts of India, are due to the failure of the south-west monsoon, and the intensity of the calamity varies with the extent of the failure; but oppressively high prices are liable to occur even when the harvest in Berār has been fairly good, should severe famine in neighbouring parts of India stimulate the export of grain.

The Melghāt is more liable to famine than any other part of Berār, owing to the comparative poverty of the soil and the thriftlessness of the aboriginal cultivators, but no distinction can be drawn between other parts of the province. It so happened, both in 1896–7 and in 1899–1900, that Wūn District, in the south-eastern corner of the province, suffered less than other Districts, but its more favourable circumstances were purely fortuitous.

The staple food-grain of the province, *jowār*, and also the pulse most commonly eaten being both *kharīf* crops, this harvest is naturally the more important. The only important food-grain grown as a *rabi* crop is wheat, which, though eaten by the well-to-do, is regarded more as a crop for export than as an addition to the food-supply. Moreover, the *rabi* harvest, never very important as a source of food-supply, has for some years past continuously decreased, owing to the failure of the late rains.

Hitherto indications of famine have been slower to declare themselves in Berār than elsewhere, and the first warning of the calamity has been a sudden rise in the price of grain, owing to exportation. The partial failure of the crops and the appearance of wanderers in search of work are the next symptoms. In the famine of 1899–1900 immigration from the Nizām's Dominions, where relief measures were imperfect, was so extensive as seriously to embarrass the Administration; and immigration from that State will probably be a factor to be reckoned with in any future programme of relief measures.

Had the history of Berār been more carefully studied, it is probable that the optimistic views advanced in 1893 would never have found expression; for, though the province may have been, on the whole, more fortunate than other parts of India, there is ample evidence that it has, in the past, suffered severely from famine. History.

Early famines. In the reign of Muhammad Shāh Bahmani (1378–97) Berār, in common with the rest of the Deccan, was devastated by a terrible famine; and it is highly improbable that it escaped the famine of 1417, which affected the greater part of the Deccan. Again in 1472–3, Mālwā and the Deccan, including Berār, were wasted by a famine which lasted for two years and caused wholesale emigration to Bengal and Gujarāt. In 1630–1, the fourth year of the reign of Shāh Jahān, there was a terrible famine throughout Gujarāt, Khāndesh, Berār, and the province of Daulatābād. The flesh of dogs was sold by butchers as goats' flesh, the crushed bones of the dead were mingled with the flour exposed for sale, and parents devoured their children.

It is unnecessary to discuss distress and scarcity due directly to misrule and to intestinal wars and disturbances, since these are no longer a factor in the liability of the country to famine. Berār did not escape the famine of 1833, which caused considerable distress, as did also the famine of 1839 and the scarcity in 1862.

1896–7. In 1896 there was a partial failure of the rains; and though the province produced grain sufficient for its own needs, the simultaneous appearance of famine in other parts of India stimulated the export of grain and caused distress by raising prices. Actual famine conditions prevailed in the Melghāt, Akola District, and the Malkāpur *tāluk*.

1899–1900. An almost total failure of the rains in 1899 was followed in 1900 by a severe famine. Except in Wūn District, the failure of crops was complete: and the distress lasted till late in 1900, when copious rain and the prospects of a good harvest caused a fall in prices and restored the labour market to its normal condition.

Effects of famine. A general increase in mortality during a famine is inevitable. In Berār it has been found that the mortality increases gradually until the hot season has set in. It then increases more rapidly, but does not reach its highest point until a considerable quantity of rain has fallen. Thus, in 1900 the highest death-rate (12 per 1,000 in the month) was not reached till August. The rapid increase after the commencement of the rains is due to inevitable exposure, to bowel complaints caused by the consumption of foul water and rank green-stuff, and to endemic diseases, the virulence of which is naturally more marked when large numbers are predisposed to disease. A very distinct decrease in the birth-rate is observable in the year following a famine.

Protective measures.

An extensive system of irrigation is impracticable in Berār, though storage tanks might perhaps be constructed in the Melghāt and the Bālāghāt. Protective measures, other than the maintenance and extension of railway communication, are therefore confined to preparation for emergencies. Programmes of large and small relief works are maintained, and during the famine a system of village relief by the distribution of cooked and uncooked food is inaugurated. Poorhouses are opened for the decrepit and deformed, loans are freely granted to cultivators under the two Acts which govern their issue, private charity is stimulated, and those whose scruples prevent them from receiving gratuitous relief are helped by the opening of cheap grain-shops.

Administration.

From the Assignment in 1853 until 1903, the administration of Berār was conducted by the Resident at Hyderābād, who exercised, in respect of the province, the powers of a Chief Commissioner. His Secretariat consisted of his two Assistants, besides a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary in the Public Works department, while the Comptroller at Hyderābād exercised a general control, under the Resident, in financial matters. In 1903 the administration of Berār was transferred, in pursuance of the agreement of 1902, from the Resident at Hyderābād to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

Administrative divisions.

The province forms one Division, under a Commissioner, and up to 1905 was divided into six Districts—AMRAOTĪ, ELLICHPUR, WŪN, AKOLA, BULDĀNA, and BĀSIM—each under the charge of a Deputy-Commissioner. These have now been rearranged and form four Districts: Amraotī, Akola, Buldāna, and Yeotmāl. The Deputy-Commissioners have a staff of Assistant Commissioners and Extra-Assistant Commissioners, who exercise magisterial, civil, and revenue powers, and *tahsīldārs*, who exercise criminal and revenue powers. Each *tahsīldār* has charge of a *tāluk*, of which there are twenty-two in the province. Assistance in petty magisterial cases is rendered by special or honorary magistrates, of whom there are 31, including 23 who sit as benches, in five of the most important towns. A Superintendent of Police manages the police of each District, in subordination to the Deputy-Commissioner, and there are three Assistant Superintendents in the province. The District jails are under the charge of the Civil Surgeon at the head-quarters of each District. The province is divided into five Forest divisions, each of which is managed, under the control of the Deputy-Commissioner of

the District within the limits of which the forests are situated, by a Deputy, Assistant, or Extra-Deputy-Conservator. These officers are subordinate in departmental matters to the Conservator of Forests in Berār.

Village officers.

The last link in the chain of administration consists of the village officers, the *pātel* and the *patwāri*, whose offices are hereditary. The *pātel* has generally both revenue and police duties. He collects the revenues in his village, and is superintendent of the *jāglyas* or village watchmen. He is bound to give timely information of all crimes, and in cases of necessity may make arrests. In some large villages the offices of police and revenue *pātel* are held by different individuals. The *patwāri* is the village accountant. He prepares the annual *jamābandī* or statement showing the occupant, area, rental, and crop of every field in his village or circle, keeps all the village papers and registers, applications for and relinquishments of land, and statements showing transfers. He and the *pātel* are responsible that every payment of revenue is duly written up in the receipt-book which every registered occupant of land holds. *Pātels* and *patwāris* are remunerated by a fixed percentage of the land revenue, forest dues, and town fund taxes collected by them. The work of the *patwāris* is immediately supervised by *munsarims*, of whom two or more are attached to each *tāluk*. *Munsarims* will probably soon be replaced by circle inspectors under the supervision of District inspectors.

Legislation and justice.

Berār has no local legislature, and Acts of the Indian Legislative Council do not apply *proprio vigore* to the province, which is not legally a part of British India. They are, however, generally made applicable to it by executive order of the Governor-General-in-Council, and the same authority makes local laws and rules for the province. The Resident at Hyderābād was formerly, and the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces is now, empowered to make subsidiary rules under certain Acts and laws. Owing to the extensive application of Acts of the Legislative Council to the province, the administration of civil and criminal justice is in all respects similar to the administration of justice in a non-regulation Province of British India. The chief local laws passed since 1880 have been the Rural Boards Law (1885), the Municipal Law (1886), the Land Revenue Code (1896), the Excise Law (1897), the Berār Courts Law, and the Berār Small Cause Courts Law (1905).

Civil courts.

In 1905, after the transfer of Berār to the Central Provinces, the Berār Courts Law and the Berār Small Cause Courts Law

came into force; and the province is now divided, for the purposes of the administration of justice, into the two civil districts of East Berār, consisting of the revenue Districts of Amraotī and Yeotmāl, and West Berār, consisting of the revenue Districts of Akola and Buldāna. In each of the two civil districts a District Judge hears civil suits without limit as regards value, and is assisted by an Additional District Judge. Subordinate Judges, with powers to try and determine suits of which the value does not exceed Rs. 5,000, hold their courts at Amraotī, Morsī, Ellichpur, Daryāpur, and Yeotmāl in East Berār, and at Akola, Bāsim, Khāmgaon, and Buldāna in West Berār; and Munsifs, with power to try and determine suits of which the value does not exceed Rs. 500, sit at Amraotī, Morsī, Ellichpur (where there are two), Yeotmāl, and Dārwhā in East Berār, and at Akola, Bāsim, Malkāpur, and Mehkar in West Berār.

Appeals from the decrees of subordinate courts lie to the District and Additional District Judges; and appeals from the District courts lie to the court of the Additional Judicial Commissioner in Nāgpur, which is the Provincial High Court. Appeals from this court, when allowed by law, lie to the Privy Council.

Courts of Small Causes, with power to try suits of a civil nature not exceeding Rs. 1,000 in value and cognizable by such courts, are established at Amraotī in East Berār and at Akola and Khāmgaon in West Berār.

Criminal courts.

The limits of the two Sessions divisions coincide with those of the civil districts, in which the District and Additional District Judges exercise the powers of Sessions Judges. Sessions are held in alternate months at Amraotī and Yeotmāl in East Berār, and at Akola and Buldāna in West Berār. Deputy-Commissioners as District Magistrates are empowered under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to try as magistrates all offences not punishable with death, but they exercise this power only in exceptional circumstances. Subdivisional magistrates, with power to hear appeals from convictions by magistrates of the second and third classes and to call for records, are stationed at Ellichpur, Bāsim, and Khāmgaon.

Appeals lie from the Courts of Session to the Additional Judicial Commissioner at Nāgpur, by whom also all sentences of death must be confirmed. Original and appellate jurisdiction over European British subjects in Berār is exercised by the High Court at Bombay.

The number of criminal cases brought to trial varies but slightly from year to year; but in years of scarcity a great

increase is always noticed in the number of serious offences against property, accompanied by a corresponding decrease in petty cases of assault, trespass, and the like. At such times a marked decrease occurs in civil litigation, followed, on the return of prosperity, by an abnormal increase, especially in suits affecting real property.

Registration.

The Registration department is controlled by the Inspector-General of Registration. In each District a District registrar is appointed, usually an Extra-Assistant Commissioner, to whom sub-registrars of circles, who are the actual registering officers in all ordinary cases, are subordinate. The average number of registration offices during the decennial periods ending 1890 and 1900 was 59 and 66. In 1903 there were 68 offices. The number of documents registered in the two decennial periods averaged 25,500 and 34,500, and was 37,400 in 1901.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CRIMINAL CASES BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN BERĀR

	Average for ten years ending 1890.	Average for ten years ending 1900.	1901.	1903.	Percentage of convictions, 1903.
Number of persons tried:—					
(*a*) For offences against person and property	12,962	15,224	11,962	5,636	15
(*b*) For other offences against the Indian Penal Code	1,273	1,708	869	776	29
(*c*) For offences against special and local laws	5,082	1,713	13,571	7,256	88
Total	19,317	18,645	26,402	13,668	58

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SUITS INSTITUTED IN BERĀR

	Average for ten years ending 1890.	Average for ten years ending 1900.	1901.	1903.
Suits for money and movable property	22,431	21,173	21,141	14,618
Title and other suits	2,361	3, 27	6,465	5,920
Total	24,792	24,900	27,606	20,538

Finance.

The following figures, showing, in thousands of rupees, the revenue collected under various heads in 1853-4, the year after

the Assignment of Berār, indicate the principal sources of revenue under native rule:—

Former sources of revenue.

Land Revenue	19,15	*Sāyar*, or town duties	71
Frontier and transit duties	1,95	Salt wells	19
Abkāri	90	Miscellaneous	22

About 74 per cent. of the revenue raised by or for the Nizām represented the assessment on the land. Other relatively important headings, such as transit and town duties and salt wells, have long since disappeared from the public accounts.

Former methods of taxation were most oppressive, for the greater part of the province was usually leased out to bankers in payment of debts due to them by the Hyderābād State, and they levied what they could. All were not equally extortionate, but the uncertainty of their tenure offered no inducement to ameliorate the condition of the cultivator. The last of these great farmers had to give up his lease in 1845; and for the next eight years the *khālsa* land was administered by officers of the Nizām's government, whose yoke was probably no lighter than that of the farmers. It was customary for an officer appointed to any important administrative post to pay, on his appointment, a large donation, which he recovered from his charge. The people had scarcely recovered from these imposts, when the *tālukdārs* got wind of the Assignment to the British, and promptly raised the land revenue demand, in order that they might carry off as much as possible. So much had Berār suffered that, when it was 'assigned,' the revenues of this rich province were estimated, by a government which certainly had no temptation to underestimate them, at little more than 30 lakhs, while the actual collections in 1853–4 fell short of 26 lakhs. In 1860–1 they had risen to 40 and in 1869–70 to 83½ lakhs.

Provincial contract and fluctuations.

The Provincial contract system was introduced in 1880, the Resident's expenditure under the heads 'Civil,' and 'Public Works, including Railways,' being limited to 54 per cent. of the gross revenue. From the year 1882–3 the percentage was reduced to 52, and again in 1887–8 to 50, which rate, although fixed for five years, was found to be insufficient, and was raised to 51 in 1889–90. The percentage was again reduced to 50 for the quinquennium which ended in 1896–7, and this arrangement continued until the lease of Berār to the Government of India in 1903.

The following figures show, in lakhs of rupees, the principal

Growth of revenue.

variations in land revenue collections since the Assignment, the years selected being those in which the variation has been most marked :—

1853-4	19	1875-6	67
1872-3	53	1902-3	74½

Collections in 1901–2 amounted to more than 89½ lakhs, but this total included many arrears. The remarkably rapid increase in the course of the twenty years which followed the Assignment is attributable rather to the extension of cultivation than to enhancement of the demand. Excise revenue has

PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF PROVINCIAL REVENUE IN BERĀR

(In thousands of rupees)

	Average for ten years ending March 31, 1890.		Average for ten years ending March 31, 1900.		Year ending March 31, 1901.		Year ending March 31, 1904.
	Total amount raised (Imperial, Provincial, and Local).	Amount credited to Provincial revenues.	Total amount raised (Imperial, Provincial, and Local).	Amount credited to Provincial revenues.	Total amount raised (Imperial, Provincial, and Local).	Amount credited to Provincial revenues.	Total amount raised (Imperial, Provincial, and Local).
Land revenue	63,98	63,98	64,25	64,21	80,17	80,15	78,30
Opium	1,85	1,85	1,60	1,60	1,50	1,50	...
Stamps	6,60	6,60	8,31	8,31	6,74	6,74	8,48
Excise	13,45	13,45	13,78	13,78	9,85	9,85	19,94
Provincial rates	4,73	...	5,87	...	6,37	...	6,47
Customs	...	...	7	7	15	15	17
Assessed taxes	...	...	69	...	89	...	1,42
Forest	3,30	3,30	4,72	4,72	3,03	3,03	6,07
Registration	56	56	84	84	81	81	97
Other sources	2,80	2,59	4,79	3,45	4,68	3,27	5,21
Total	97,27	92,33	1,04,92	96,98	1,14,19	1,05,50	1,27,03

similarly increased, but more gradually and less continuously. It reached nearly 17 lakhs in 1891–2, but declined from that year onwards owing to the abolition, in the more populous parts of the province, of the out-still system and the introduction of a more elaborate system of excise administration. The disappearance of some heads of revenue from the public accounts has already been mentioned. Their loss has been much more than counterbalanced by the revenue raised from sources untapped under the former rule. Stamps were introduced in 1857, and by 1869–70 realized 4·6 lakhs. In 1903–4 the income from this head amounted to 8 lakhs. Forests are another

source from which former rulers drew no revenue; but the control and administration of the forests was undertaken shortly after the Assignment, and forest revenue, which in 1869–70 was less than 2 lakhs of rupees, amounted in 1903–4 to Rs. 6,12,527. Registration was first introduced in 1877–8. The discovery of new sources of revenue has been accompanied by the opening of new channels of expenditure. Education was

PRINCIPAL HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURE IN BERĀR

(In thousands of rupees)

	Average for ten years ending March 31, 1890.	Average for ten years ending March 31, 1900.	Year ending March 31, 1901.	Year ending March 31, 1904.
Opening balance . . .	42,92	41,18	– 16,58	...
Charges in respect of collection (principally land revenue and forest) . . .	15,27	17,49	18,08	16,82
Salaries and expenses of civil departments—				
(a) General administration . . .	2,41	2,97	3,17	1,96
(b) Law and justice .	3,13	4,31	5,27	3,80
(c) Police . . .	5,35	5,93	6,30	5,57
(d) Education . .	1,82	1,93	1,96	2,55
(e) Medical . . .	1,32	1,50	2,09	1,72
(f) Other heads* . .	22	30	23	23
Pensions† and miscellaneous civil charges‡ . . .	4,90	7,37	7,92	2,57
Famine relief . . .	...	4,04	80,39	...
Irrigation	...	...	...	...
Public works . . .	10,76	9,19	4,68	6,09
Other charges and adjustments	1,84	2,31	1,76	25,65
Expenditure on account of the Hyderābād Contingent .	31,32	38,62	39,12	...
Total expenditure	78,34	95,96	1,70,97	66,96
Closing balance . . .	41,18	– 16,58	– 77,60	...

* Includes the heads 'Ecclesiastical' and 'Scientific and other Minor Departments.'
† Includes also the head 'Assignments and Compensations.'
‡ Includes the heads 'Stationery and Printing' and 'Miscellaneous.'

not provided by the state till 1862, and ten years later the expenditure amounted to less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. In 1903–4 it was more than 5 lakhs. Medical relief was also unknown under native rule. In 1870–1 little more than a lakh was spent under this head. Rather more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs is now spent annually; but in 1900–1, the year after a severe famine, the expenditure was $2\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. The expenditure on public works increased steadily

until 1892–3, when it reached nearly 15 lakhs. Since that time more rigid economy has been practised, and the expenditure has gradually declined.

Military expenditure.

A distinctive feature of Berār finance before the lease was the heavy military expenditure, which was necessarily an important item, for the province was specially assigned for the maintenance of the Hyderābād Contingent, a force which consisted of four regiments of cavalry, four batteries of artillery, and six regiments of infantry. Statistics of this expenditure will be found on p. 49. They show, as might be expected, a steady and progressive increase, due to the necessity of maintaining the standard of efficiency attained by the regular Indian army.

Land revenue.

Berār has been settled on the Bombay *ryotwāri* system, under which each field forms a holding for which the occupier engages separately with Government. The whole province, with the exception of the Melghāt and some uncultivated tracts in Yeotmāl and Akola Districts, was measured, classified, and assessed, field by field, by the close of 1878. The settlements, which were for a term of thirty years, commenced to expire in 1891. Revision operations have now been completed for the whole province except the *tāluks* of Kelāpur, Yeotmāl, and Wūn in Yeotmāl District, where the work did not commence till 1904.

Ordinary tenure.

The holder of a field or 'survey number' is called the registered occupant or *khātedār*, and he holds on condition of paying the assessment and other dues. Failure to pay these dues renders him liable to forfeit the right of occupancy and all rights connected with it, such as those over trees and buildings on the land. Land thus forfeited reverts to Government, and the right of occupancy is put up to sale by auction after due notice. No occupant is bound to hold his land for more than a single year. He may, on giving due notice, relinquish it, or he may dispose of the occupancy right by sale or otherwise to another; but he is responsible for the revenue of the year in which he relinquishes or transfers his right. An occupant may, if he chooses, retain his occupancy right for ever, subject to the payment of the assessment and dues, which are liable to revision once every thirty years. He may also sublet his holding, but only by private arrangement, which finds no place in the revenue records.

Exceptional tenures.

This description applies to the *ryotwāri* tenure, which is the ordinary tenure of Berār. The extraordinary tenures are *jāgīr*, *inām*, *ijāra*, and *pālampat*. The term *jāgīr* means any rent-free holding of one or more villages. Nearly all the *jāgīrs* in Berār have been granted either by the Delhi emperors or by the

Nizāms, one or two only by the Peshwās. The term *ināṁ* is applied to fields as *jāgīr* is to villages. *Ināms* have been granted for charitable objects, for service in villages, offices, or in temples, and sometimes as purely personal favours. *Pālampat* tenure is similar to tenure in *jāgīr*, but the holding is not entirely free; a fixed proportion of the rent is paid to Government. *Deshmukhs* and *deshpāndyas* in Wūn District hold a few *pālampat* villages under ancient grants.

Ijāradārs.

The *ijāradār* is the lessee of an integral waste village, holding under a lease from Government, which may be for any term not extending beyond the next settlement of the *tāluk* in which the village is situated. For the first three years no rent is paid. In the fourth year either one-fifth or one-tenth of the full assessment has to be paid; in the fifth year the rent is doubled, in the sixth trebled, and so on, until the full assessment is reached. The object of the lease being to encourage the breaking-up of the land for cultivation, tracts containing valuable timber are excluded, and quarrying or mining is prohibited; but special arrangements are made in the lessees' favour in the case of an excess of uncultivable land, and special rules are laid down with regard to grazing. During the currency of the lease the *ijāradār* is *pātel* and *patwāri* of the village; and at its expiry, when the village is liable to be surveyed and to have its assessment revised, the offices of *pātel* and *patwāri* are offered to him, and he is registered as the occupant of all land then actually occupied by him. Such are the rules of 1880, which are now in force. Under the former rules of 1865 the term of the lease was limited to thirty years; and the lessee had the option, on the termination of his lease, of constituting the village his property in perpetuity, subject to the payment annually to Government of one-half of a fair assessment, liable to revision every thirty years, upon the whole of the cultivated and cultivable area.

Relative importance of different tenures.

In 1903 the number of villages held under each class of tenure was as follows: *ryotwāri*, 6,133; *jāgīr*, 211; *ijāra*, 449; *pālampat*, 16. Of the total assessment of *ryotwāri* villages amounting to 70·6 lakhs, land assessed at Rs. 75,500 was occupied by *ināmdārs*.

Persons holding by cultivation occupancy may be thus classified:—

(*a*) Registered occupants holding direct from Government, the fields being registered in their names;

(*b*) Persons possessing interests similar in kind to that of registered occupants; and

(*c*) Tenants.

The position of the registered occupant has already been described. Those who possess an interest similar to his are co-sharers and co-occupants. A co-sharer is a partner in a whole field, cultivating jointly with the occupant on the co-operative system; a co-occupant occupies and cultivates a specific portion of a field. Co-sharers and co-occupants may have co-sharers and co-occupants claiming under them and not directly from the registered occupant. There are two exceptional varieties of co-sharers: one who obtains a share in the profits by personal labour in the field, and one who obtains a share by supplying bullocks. The latter variety of sub-tenure is rare.

The land revenue of Berār in 1903–4 was 85 lakhs. It is estimated that, when the enhanced assessment of the *tāluks* of Murtazāpur, Amraotī, Morsī, Bāsim, Mangrūl, Ellichpur, Dārwhā, and Pusad—the levy of which has been postponed in order to allow time to recover from the effects of the famine of 1899–1900—is ultimately realized, the land revenue of the province will amount to 99 lakhs.

Basis of the land revenue assessment. The unit of calculation in the land revenue assessment is, as has been explained, the field or 'survey number,' but when a *tāluk* is to be assessed it is divided into groups of villages, classified according to the productiveness of soil and such adventitious advantages as means of communication and proximity to markets or railways. A maximum rate per acre is fixed for each group of villages, and in assessing single fields the fertility of the soil of each is considered. Soils are divided into three classes, for each of which a maximum assessment per acre is fixed. In determining the assessment the depth of the soil, and any defects, such as the presence of sand, of limestone nodules, or of a flow of water over any portion of the field, are considered.

The land revenue demand in the reign of Akbar amounted to $161\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, and fell in the reign of Shāh Jahān to $127\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. The famine of 1630–1 may account for the decrease, but it is probable that it was partly due to an equitable assessment based on Malik Ambar's settlement of 1612 and to the relinquishment of paper claims against Gond chieftains. These figures are, however, of little use for comparison with those of the present day, for Berār was, in the days of Akbar and Shāh Jahān, approximately twice as large as the present province. Moreover, we have no means of estimating the population of the province in Mughal times, or the area of the land actually under cultivation. All, therefore, that can be probably asserted is that the mean between the figures for the two reigns is

approximately double the present assessment of Berār, so that, taking gross area alone into consideration, the Mughal cash assessment was about equal to the British cash assessment, notwithstanding the rise in the money value of agricultural produce. No margin remains to counterbalance the hardships entailed by former methods of collection. We know that in other parts of the empire, near the capital city and immediately under the eye of Todar Mal, who perfected Akbar's land revenue system, the rapacity of the *karorīs* or collectors brought upon them cruel punishments. It is not likely that provinces at a distance from the capital, often the seat of war, and overrun by troops, fared any better. The miserable condition of the province in the days of the later Mughal emperors, and during and after the Marāthā and Pindāri Wars, has been described. During the period which elapsed between the overthrow of the Pindāris and the Assignment of Berār to the East India Company, nobody but the revenue collectors and the ryots knew the rates at which land revenue was actually levied, for the province was leased out to farmers, who with perhaps a single exception squeezed as much as they could out of it.

The number of holdings in *ryotwāri* villages in Berār in 1901 was 392,123, the corresponding assessment being 67·8 lakhs, so that the incidence per occupant was very nearly Rs. 17–5. It is estimated that the land revenue demand amounts to 7 per cent. of the gross produce. This being so, it is obvious that the assessment has no bearing whatever on the ability of the people to withstand famine, for in a prosperous year the cultivator would not feel a deduction of 7 per cent. from his gross produce. When crops failed completely—a phenomenon of very rare occurrence—he might be able to meet the demand from savings; but should he be unable to do this the demand would be postponed for a year at least, so that in the year following the failure of crops he would be able to pay 14 per cent. of the gross produce without hardship. Incidence.

The principle observed in suspending and remitting land revenue in times of scarcity is that nobody should be compelled to borrow in order to meet the demand. *Tahsīldārs* are required to prepare lists of all landholders known to be able to meet the demand, and to recover it by the ordinary procedure. It is ordinarily assumed that recent purchasers, mortgagees in possession, occupants other than agriculturists, and occupants of fields which have yielded half of a normal crop are able to pay. The Deputy-Commissioner is empowered Suspensions and remissions.

to suspend collections of land revenue due from persons who, by reason of their known inability to pay, have not been entered in the *tahsīldār's* list. When the prospects of the next *kharīf* crop can be estimated with some degree of accuracy, the Deputy-Commissioner submits to the Commissioner his proposals regarding the collection of arrears. Remissions of land revenue are few because, owing to the light assessment, they are generally unnecessary.

Miscellaneous revenue. Opium.

The cultivation of the poppy has not been allowed in Berār for many years, all opium required for local consumption being imported from either Indore or Bombay. The right to sell opium, whether wholesale or retail, is sold annually by auction. Wholesale vendors receive licences to import opium, which is stored by them at sub-treasuries or authorized storerooms, and may be sold to none but licensed retail vendors. The latter receive licences authorizing them to open shops in localities approved by the Deputy-Commissioner for the sale of opium to the general public, and in certain circumstances are permitted to import opium.

The following statement shows the net revenue realized from opium since 1881:—

		Rs.
Average	1881–90	2,97,000
	1891–1900	3,00,000
	1903–4	4,17,000

The figures for 1881–90 and 1891–1900 do not accurately represent the revenue derived from opium alone, for until 1893–4 the right to sell hemp drugs was included in the opium licences, and separate figures are not available.

Hemp drugs.

The cultivation of the hemp plant in Berār has hitherto been prohibited; and hemp drugs, i.e. *gānja* and *bhang*, are imported by licensed vendors from the Government warehouse at Khaṇḍwā under conditions similar to those which govern the importation of opium. Figures showing the revenue realized from hemp drugs alone are not available for years before 1894–5; but the average revenue for the six years ending 1899–1900 was Rs. 23,500, the actual revenue for 1903–4 being Rs. 51,000.

Liquors.

The manufacture and supply of country liquor (*mahuā* spirit) is regulated by two distinct systems. That known locally as the Madras contract distillery system prevails in the Districts of Amraotī, Ellichpur, and Akola, and in the Malkāpur *tāluk* of Buldāna District. These areas are supplied by two distilleries: one at Ellichpur, which supplies Amraotī and Ellichpur

Districts, and the other at Akola, which supplies the other areas. In all other parts of Berār the out-still system prevailed till recently, the right to manufacture and sell country liquor in approved localities being sold annually by auction. From April 1, 1905, the distillery system was introduced.

The annual net revenue derived from country spirits rose from an average of 10·5 lakhs between 1881 and 1890 to an average of 11 lakhs in the next decade. The revenue declined almost continuously from 1893–4, the decrease being attributable to the introduction of the contract distillery system, and in later years to famine. But since 1901 there has been a great improvement in the revenue from this source. In 1903–4 the receipts amounted to 20 lakhs. Country spirits.

The revenue derived from imported liquors is trifling. For the seven years preceding 1901 the receipts averaged only Rs. 1,947.

Each District treasury is a local dépôt for the sale of stamps, and every *tāluk* treasury is a branch dépôt. The treasurers or *potdārs* are *ex-officio* vendors of stamps. Besides the *ex-officio* vendors there are licensed vendors, including sub-postmasters, who are respectable men appointed by the Deputy-Commissioner, and receive discount according to the nature and value of the stamps sold and the place of sale. Stamps.

The following table shows the net revenue from judicial and non-judicial stamps for the last twenty years :—

	Average, 1881–90.	Average, 1891–1900.	1901.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Judicial stamps . .	3,73,000	4,69,000	3,70,000	4,73,000
Non-judicial stamps .	2,55,000	3,12,000	2,60,000	3,32,000

Increases in the sale of *hundī* and receipt stamps are favourable signs, being usually attributable to briskness of trade, following a good cotton crop. Bad seasons have a marked effect on the sale of judicial stamps for two reasons: namely, that the people cannot afford to go to law, and that the prospect of recovering anything, even if a suit be successful, is poor. Similarly, by affecting trade, they cause a decrease in the sales of general stamps, though this effect is largely counteracted by the necessity for borrowing. Plague in Bombay has had a detrimental effect on trade, and consequently on the sale of general stamps in Berār.

During the period of the Assignment income-tax was not

Income tax.

levied in the province, except from officers of the administration. It has been introduced since the lease.

Local and municipal. Rural boards.

The Berār Rural Boards Law (1885) was the enactment which introduced local self-government into the province; but the first elections for *tāluk* boards did not take place till late in 1888 and early in 1889. The District of Wūn was at first excluded from the operation of the law, which was only extended to it in 1892, and the Melghāt *tāluk* has always been unrepresented.

The newly constituted District boards commenced their work in 1890; and although the law, the rules made, and the system of accounts laid down were not at first clearly understood, the working of the newly formed bodies has been on the whole satisfactory, and the members have displayed some interest in their duties.

There are now twenty-one *tāluk* boards, one for each *tāluk* outside the Melghāt, and six[1] District boards. The latter were composed in 1901 of 152 members, of whom 122 were elected. The *tāluk* boards had 373 members, of whom 243 were elected. The functions of District boards are those mentioned in Vol. IV, chapter ix, of the *Imperial Gazetteer*; and their principal duties are in connexion with roads, schools, dispensaries, resthouses, and water-supply. The *tāluk* boards form, in practice, the electorate for the District boards; and they constitute the local agencies for the carrying out of District board works, and for representing to the District boards the needs of their *tāluks*.

Speaking generally, it cannot be said that the principles of local self-government have made much headway. The percentage of actual voters to those entitled to vote is usually about 8 or 9, and sometimes as low as 3 or 4. Nine candidates out of ten would probably think it a greater honour to be appointed by Government to the membership of a board than to be elected.

Municipalities.

Municipal administration was introduced into the towns of Amraotī, Akola, Ellichpur, Bāsim, Yeotmāl, and Khāmgaon in 1869, under special rules for the working of municipal committees drawn up under section 10 of Act XV of 1867. The committees were composed of both official and non-official members, the latter being in some committees nominated by the Resident and in others elected by the ratepayers. The elective principle was afterwards abandoned. The small town of Yeotmāl could not maintain a municipality, and the

[1] Reduced to four in 1905.

committee there soon ceased to exist. In 1881 Shegaon in Akola District was added to the list of municipal towns. In 1883 a conference was held to consider the best means of extending municipal self-government in Berār, and municipalities were invited to submit proposals. The next reform was the application to Berār of Punjab Act IV of 1873, and in 1884 Akot, in Akola District, was made a municipal town. The Berār Municipal Law was passed in 1886, but did not come into full force till 1889–90. Since then elections have been regularly held under that law.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF DISTRICT BOARDS IN BERĀR

	Average for ten years 1891–2 to 1900–1.	1901–2.	1903–4.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Income from—			
Land revenue	3,596	1,725	...
Provincial rates	3,33,576	3,19,646	3,40,111
Interest	317	...	...
Education	47,461	35,664	37,502
Medical	16	...	245
Scientific, &c.	3,250	1,905	2,100
Miscellaneous	96,192	1,33,148	1,26,531
Public works	6,585	5,134	14,169
Pounds	19,692	5,466	13,117
Ferries	862	2,170	2,153
Total income	5,11,547	5,04,858	5,35,928
Expenditure on—			
Refunds	42	...	...
Land revenue	660	...	...
General administration	38,355	40,282	41,012
Education	1,92,148	1,90,880	1,25,190
Medical	9,621	14,028	22,546
Scientific, &c.	10,363	8,779	16,589
Miscellaneous	51,472	52,368	48,972
Public works	2,87,342	1,99,162	2,69,950
Total expenditure	5,90,003	5,05,499	5,24,259

There were, in 1904, twelve municipalities in Berār. The committees of these municipalities consisted of 173 members, of whom 81 were elected; 54 were officials and 119 non-officials; 28 of the members were Europeans. The attention of municipalities has been mainly devoted to surface drainage and general improvement of sanitation, the upkeep of roads, education, and public health. The resources of most of the municipalities in Berār were severely strained by the famine of 1899–1900, and assistance by means of grants from Provincial

revenues was found necessary. The municipalities generally have shown some remissness in the collection of arrears of taxation. The financial condition of all places, except Akola, Khāmgaon, and the Amraotī civil station, is now satisfactory, and in these three an increase of taxation is possible.

Electoral privileges are not highly valued. When the elective principle was first introduced, it was believed that the apathy of the electorate was due to ignorance, and that as the privileges of self-government came to be understood they would be appreciated. These anticipations have not been realized. The proportion of actual voters to the whole body of the electorate varies much at different times and in different municipalities, but a study of the figures for the period from 1889–90 to 1900–1 can only lead to the conclusion that interest in municipal self-government has declined and is declining.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN BERĀR

	Average for ten years 1891–1900.	1901.	1903–4.
Income from—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Tax on houses and lands	6,389	35,377	37,040
Other taxes	57,576	64,099	97,542
Rents	16,390	15,036	19,472
Loans	13,766*	31,000	...
Other sources†	3,78,882	2,13,519	1,32,847
Total income	4,73,003	3,59,031	2,86,901
Expenditure on—			
Administration and collection of taxes	18,399	24,879	24,076
Public safety	9,399	9,149	10,310
Water-supply and drainage—			
(*a*) Capital	26,017	2,752	20,527
(*b*) Maintenance	25,116	16,392	18,072
Conservancy ‡	61,211	66,976	73,711
Hospitals and dispensaries	8,081	8,810	6,499
Public works	28,725	1,37,170	31,394
Education	24,491	39,085	41,376
Other heads	1,93,168	2,06,440	54,123
Total expenditure	3,94,607	5,11,653	2,80,088

* Figures for three years, 1893, 1894, 1900.
† 'Other sources' includes income from pounds, hackney carriages, sale-proceeds of lands and produce of lands, conservancy receipts other than taxes and rates, fees from institutions, markets, slaughter-houses, &c., interest on investments, grants and contributions, and recoveries on account of services.
‡ Including road-cleaning and watering and latrines.

Public works.

The province is divided into two Public Works divisions, each under the charge of an Executive Engineer. The East

Berār division consists of the Districts of Amraotī and Yeotmāl, and the West Berār division of the Districts of Akola and Buldāna. These two divisions are controlled by a Superintending Engineer, who was formerly also Secretary in the Public Works department to the Resident at Hyderābād, and had his head-quarters at Bolārum; but since Berār has been transferred to the administration of the Central Provinces the head-quarters of the Superintending Engineer have been moved to Nāgpur. Organization.

The department carries out all Provincial public works and repairs, and also original works debitable to incorporated Local funds costing over Rs. 1,000. District boards carry out incorporated Local fund public works costing Rs. 1,000 and less, and all repairs in works other than Provincial public works.

Working. The sum available for expenditure during the ten years ending 1891–2 averaged 11·1 lakhs, and for the next decade 14·6 lakhs. The normal expenditure was less in the latter than in the former period, but the large expenditure of 60 lakhs necessitated by the famine of 1899–1900 led to the increase in total expenditure during the latter decade. The expenditure on civil works in 1901–2 and 1903–4 was 7·1 lakhs and 6·5 lakhs respectively.

Berār contains no notable public works; but it is very well provided with roads, and communications are the principal item of expenditure. Civil buildings, such as court-houses, schools, dispensaries, police stations, &c., come next in importance to, but far behind, communications. No large schemes of municipal drainage have been taken in hand. A drainage project for Amraotī, the cost of which is estimated at nearly 5 lakhs, was prepared in 1891–2, but has not been begun owing to want of funds. The town and civil station of Amraotī, and the towns of Akola, Khāmgaon, and Buldāna each have a system of artificial water-supply which, though ordinarily good, cannot withstand a long drought.

Army. The number of soldiers stationed within the province on June 1, 1903, was 629, nearly all of whom belonged to the Native army. Berār lies partly within the Mhow division of the Southern Command and partly within the independent Secunderābād division. The only military station, Ellichpur (since vacated), was in the latter. The Berār Volunteer Rifles, who numbered 125 in 1903, have their head-quarters company at Amraotī, and a second company at Akola.

Police and jails. Soon after the Assignment steps were taken to organize a regular police force for the province. In 1870 this consisted

Police. of 2,613 officers and men, or one policeman to every 6·77 square miles of country and to every 849 of the population. Since then the increase has been trifling, and has failed to keep pace with the increase of population. The number of officers and men in 1903 was 2,900, giving one policeman to every 6·1 square miles of country and to every 949 inhabitants. There are no rural police.

Recruitment. The force is recruited principally in the province, and the sanction of the Inspector-General of Police is necessary for the enlistment of men who are not natives of Berār or the Deccan. The enlistment of Gurkhas, Sikhs, and frontier Pathāns is prohibited; and the authorized proportions of various classes in the police are 40 per cent. Musalmāns, 20 per cent. Hindus of Hindustān, and 40 per cent. Hindus of the Deccan and other classes. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable Hindus, it is sometimes necessary to enlist Musalmāns in excess of the fixed proportion.

Training. The newly enlisted policeman is trained in each District in a school, where reading, writing, elementary arithmetic, drill, and the laws and departmental rules which apply to the duties of the police are taught. Four standards of examination have been framed for non-gazetted officers and constables, and promotion is chiefly regulated by the results of these examinations. Service in the police cannot be said to be popular among educated natives.

	1881.	1891.	1901.	1904.
Supervising Staff.				
District and Assistant Superintendent	8	8	8	8
Inspectors	18	19	19	19
Subordinate Staff.				
Chief constables	501 (Chief and Head constables)	526 (Chief and Head constables)	113	113
Head constables			430	430
Constables	2,134	2,323	2,330	2,330
Total	2,661	2,876	2,900	2,900

Recent improvements. No special measures have been taken of late years to improve the status and character of the police force. The principal measure adopted for the repression of organized and habitual crime has been the closer supervision of Banjārā encampments or *tāndās*, which have in most cases been moved closer to the sites of the villages in the lands of which they are situated. Banjārās were formerly employed as detectives, but the measure was only partially successful; for they were

not always trustworthy, and were of no further use when their occupation became known to their fellows. Anthropometry has been abandoned as a means of identifying criminals, and dactylography has taken its place. The finger-print records have been largely increased of late years, and the police should soon have a complete record of habitual criminals in the province.

Of the District police, 56 are armed with batons only, 1,799 with swords, and 1,018 with smooth-bore carbines.

The following table gives statistics of cognizable crime :—

	Average for five years ending 1901.	1903.	1904.
Number of cases reported	10,323	9,318	8,966
Number of cases decided in the criminal courts	7,374	7,323	6,883
Number of cases ending in acquittal or discharge	642	409	488
Number of cases ending in conviction	6,704	6,858	6,343

The following table exhibits statistics of jails for the years 1881, 1891, 1901, and 1904 :— Jails.

	1881.	1891.	1901.	1904.
Number of Central jails	2	2	2	2
Number of District jails	4	4	4	3
Number of Subsidiary jails (lock-ups)	...	1	...	1
Average daily jail population :—				
(*a*) Male.				
In Central jails	1,033·53	730·88	1,055·18	543·40
In other jails	181·86	214·85	256·11	153·13
(*b*) Female.				
In Central jails	44·93	29·49	35·76	13·35
In other jails	11·48	15·06	10·10	14·36
Total	1,271·80	990·28	1,357·15	724·24
Rate of mortality per 1,000	16·1	11·1	25·79	16·57
Expenditure on jail maintenance Rs.	75,428	61,086	1,08,584	61,742
Cost per prisoner Rs.	59-4-11	61-12-0	80-0-2	85-3-11
Profits on jail manufactures Rs.	12,047	12,800	17,825	19,615
Earnings per prisoner Rs.	9-14-3	14-1-0	16-7-0	12-12-0

Railway police.

The railway police force consists of one inspector, 2 chief constables, 12 head constables, and 58 constables. Their range is the branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway which traverses the province, and they are under the control of the District Superintendents of Amraotī and Akola.

The table on p. 60 gives the sanctioned strength in the various ranks of the police at different periods.

Since the redistribution of the Districts in August, 1905, the jails in Berār are classified as follows: the jails at Amraotī and Akola are Central jails, those at Buldāna and Yeotmāl District jails, and those at Ellichpur and Bāsim subsidiary jails.

Jail industries.

The principal industries are: in the Amraotī jail, the lithographic printing of forms for official use, and weaving; and in the Akola jail, the manufacture of police and prison clothing, and weaving. Blankets are woven in both jails. In the small District jails coarse weaving, blanket-weaving, and oil-pressing are the principal industries; and the prisoners in all jails provide for their own needs by tilling the jail gardens and grinding their own meal. Stone-breaking is the commonest form of unskilled labour. Different departments of the administration take the greater part of the jail produce. Textiles, such as towels, dusters, tape, &c., are sold by private arrangement.

Education. History.

Neither under Hindu nor under Muhammadan rule were there any schools in Berār expressly supported by the Government. Brāhmans in receipt of money-grants and *ināms* taught Sanskrit and Marāthī, in most instances for payment; and schools in which the Arabic of the Korān, Persian, and Urdū were taught were supported by wealthy Musalmāns as a work of merit. The profession of teaching was regarded as derogatory, and was compared to the herding of cattle. In 1862 a few Marāthī and Anglo-Marāthī schools were established and placed under District officers; and in 1866, when there were 35 schools with an attendance of 1,881 pupils, a department of Public Instruction was organized under the control of a Director, assisted by a Deputy-Inspector for each District. Two European Inspectors were next appointed, but after 1873 there was only one Inspector for the whole province. In 1903 the administration of Berār was transferred to the Central Provinces, and the supervising agency under the Director of Public Instruction for both areas now consists in Berār of one European Circle Inspector and eleven Deputy and Sub-Deputy-Inspectors.

There is no college in Berār, but scholarships are tenable

in the Arts, Science, and Medical colleges of the Bombay Presidency by candidates from the Berār high schools. The educational authorities in Berār are not directly concerned with the further education of those who proceed to these colleges. In 1881 nine, in 1891 fifteen, and in 1903 twenty-seven students from Berār matriculated, and the average annual number of graduates for the last fourteen years has been two. University education.

Secondary schools are of two classes: namely, high and middle schools, English being taught in both. There are seven standards in the curriculum of English education, the first three of which form the middle school course. The first English, which succeeds the fourth vernacular standard, includes arithmetic to the end of compound proportion, reading and writing the vernacular, history and geography, and elementary instruction in English. These subjects, together with grammar, constitute the middle school course, a wider knowledge of each subject being of course required in each successive standard. The high school course begins with the fourth standard. To the subjects already taught elementary algebra and drawing are added, a classical language, Sanskrit or Persian, may be substituted for the vernacular, and geography and history are taught in English. In the fifth standard Euclid and easy English composition are begun. The sixth standard is similar, but more advanced; and the seventh is the matriculation standard of the Bombay University. There is a private unaided high and middle school at Amraotī. The proportion of boys undergoing secondary instruction to the total male population of school-going age in 1904 was 6·05 per cent. Secondary education.

There are six purely vernacular standards. In the first standard the pupil learns reading, the writing of the alphabet, and elementary arithmetic; in the third, geography; in the fourth, elementary hygiene and history; and in the sixth, the first book of Euclid and—as an optional subject—land measurement are added to the curriculum. Primary education.

Primary schools are under the management of municipalities and District boards. In addition to the cess of 3 pies per rupee of land revenue, the contribution of Government towards their maintenance consists of a grant from Provincial revenues, which is made over to District boards. Municipalities supply two-thirds of the expenditure on primary schools in towns, one-third being contributed from Provincial revenues. A few municipalities receive subsidies from District boards. The pay of teachers in primary schools ranges from Rs. 10 to Rs. 35. A tendency to cultivate the memory rather than the intelligence

of pupils is still noticeable, but it is probable that this defect will disappear by degrees, now that the proportion of trained teachers is increasing. The proportion of boys under primary instruction to the total male population of school-going age in 1904 was 17·21 per cent.

Female education.

Female education has not yet advanced beyond the primary stage. The number of girls' schools was 12 in 1881, 48 in 1891, and 47 (including 3 private institutions) in 1904; the proportion of female scholars to the female population of school-going age in those years was 0·14, 0·22, and 1·12 per cent. Girls' schools are supported and managed by municipalities and District boards. The subjects taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, plain needlework, knitting, and fancy work. Progress has been fairly satisfactory; but the people in general still need to be convinced that female education is a good thing. A great obstacle in the way of any thorough teaching is the practice of withdrawing girls from school at a very early age, due, among Hindus, to the custom of infant marriage, and, among Muhammadans, to the general feeling that a girl who has attained the age of puberty, which may be fixed at about twelve, is better at home than at school.

Special schools.

The training school for teachers at Akola is a useful institution. It contains Marāthī and Hindustāni divisions, and was attended in 1881 by 71 teachers, in 1891 by 91, and in 1904 by 47. The Government industrial school at Amraotī is at present an unimportant institution, with an attendance of 12. The Alliance Mission Workshop at Akola is an industrial school under competent management, with an attendance of 29. Instruction is given in ironwork, carpentry, and other handicrafts, and the pupils are generally well started in the world. In the Korkū Mission school at Ellichpur, 62 pupils are taught masonry, painting, smiths' work, and carpentry.

European and Eurasian education

The Convent school and the Anglican school at Amraotī are the only schools for Europeans and Eurasians in the province. Both are mixed schools. In 1904 the former had on its rolls 17 boys and 27 girls, and the latter 11 boys and 3 girls. The highest standard in the former was the seventh, and in the latter the fifth, and the two schools received monthly grants of Rs. 100 and Rs. 40. Boys have usually proceeded from these schools to others before making a start in life.

Muhammadan education.

From the table on the next page, which shows for the three census years 1881, 1891, and 1901 the percentage of Muhammadan and Hindu boys attending secondary and primary schools to the total male population of school-going age of each class, it

will be seen that in Berār Musalmāns are not behind Hindus in appreciating the benefits of education :—

	1881.		1891.		1901.	
	Musalmāns.	Hindus.	Musalmāns.	Hindus.	Musalmāns.	Hindus.
In secondary schools	0·03	0·08	1·46	1·36	1·24	1·13
In primary schools .	17·07	9·45	25·91	12·28	19·91	10·0

These figures, however, include all classes of Hindus, the more backward castes among whom have hardly been touched by education; and it must be understood that Musalmāns as a class are far less anxious for education than Brāhmans and other advanced castes among Hindus. Satisfactory progress has, nevertheless, been made. The establishment of separate Hindustāni schools, the existence of which dates back almost to the introduction of a system of education, can hardly be mentioned as an instance of special encouragement, for the Musalmān has as much right to receive instruction through the medium of his mother tongue as the Marāthā has to receive it through the medium of his. Musalmāns are, however, encouraged by being treated leniently in the matter of fees. The standards and the subjects taught in Hindustāni schools are similar to those in the curriculum for Marāthī schools; but instruction is conveyed in Urdū, and in the first standard no Marāthī is taught. In the second and subsequent standards the pupil learns Marāthī; but after the fourth standard he may proceed to the middle-school course, when he may abandon Marāthī and take Urdū as his sole vernacular language, or he may complete his vernacular education by going on to the fifth and sixth standards.

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE IN BERĀR, 1903–4

Class of institutions.	Expenditure on institutions maintained or aided by public funds from				
	Provincial revenues.	District and municipal funds.	Fees.	Other sources.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
Secondary schools .	59,048	181	17,073	7,574	83,876
Primary schools .	28,977	228,800	20,226	23,708	298,711
Training and special schools . . .	8,863	1,082	295	...	10,240
Total	93,888	230,063	37,594	31,282	392,827

Educational Statistics in Berār

Class of institutions.	1880–1.			1890–1.			1900–1.			1903–4.		
	Number of institutions.	Scholars.		Number of institutions.	Scholars.		Number of institutions.	Scholars.		Number of institutions.	Scholars.	
		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.
Public.												
Secondary schools :—												
Upper (High) . .	2	54	...	2	401	...	3	570	...	3	462	...
Lower (Middle) .	5	196	...	24	4,268	...	25	3,613	4	185	12,210	852
Primary schools . .	867	31,507	393	1,247	43,659	1,764	999	39,080	2,835	889	36,979	1,899
Training schools . .	...	...	...	1	91	...	1	57	...	2	47	8
Other special schools .	1	71	...	1	25	...	3	93	...	3	118	...
Private.												
Advanced . . .	...	...	...	6	99	...	2	65	...	5	57	...
Elementary . . .	...	...	...	6	32	3	3	145	213	3	23	44
Total	875	31,828	393	1,287	48,575	1,767	1,036	43,623	3,052	1,090	49,896	2,803

Depressed tribes.

It has occasionally been necessary to open here and there special schools for the lowest castes, such as Mahārs and Māngs, but the last of these schools was closed in 1902 for want of attendance. The need for these institutions no longer exists, as the prejudice which prevented low-caste boys from attending ordinary schools has given way to a more enlightened feeling.

There are two schools in the Melghāt for Korkūs, among whom education is making fair progress, though none have yet passed beyond the primary stage. In 1891 only 127 Korkūs attended school, and in 1904 the returns show only 38 Korkū girls at these schools.

General results.

The following figures show the percentage of males and females of school-going age under instruction in the three last census years :—

	1881.	1891.	1901.
Males	6.41	7.00	12.12
Females	0.14	7.22	1.12

Education has made considerable progress. In 1901, 8.53 per cent. of the male and 0.31 of the female population could read and write. Ellichpur and Amraotī Districts are the most advanced, and Wūn is the most backward, in respect of education. The Brāhmans are the most highly educated section of the indigenous population, and the Kolāms, among whom not a single person can read or write, the most ignorant. The Banjārās, Andhs, and Māngs are little better than the Kolāms.

Fees.

Monthly fees in primary schools range from 2 annas for the first two standards to 6 annas for the sixth; in middle schools from 8 to 12 annas; and in high schools from Rs. 1–8 to Rs. 2.

News-papers and books.

No English newspapers are published in Berār. In 1904 six Marāthī papers were published, one of which had English columns. Their circulation is local, and they have little influence. Twelve books, all in Marāthī, were registered in 1904. The books published in the province deal principally with religious and social subjects, and cannot be said to contain evidence of original research.

Medical. Institutions.

Soon after the Assignment in 1853, steps were taken to provide medical aid by the establishment of hospitals and dispensaries, the administration of which was entrusted to Civil Surgeons of Districts. By 1871 there were 3 civil hospitals and 20 charitable dispensaries in the province. The

progressive increase in the number of these institutions is shown in the table below. In 1895 a hospital for females was opened at Amraotī under the auspices of the Lady Dufferin Fund Committee. This institution has made satisfactory, though not rapid, progress. The average annual numbers of in-patients, out-patients, and operations since its establishment have been 159, 6,069, and 153.

STATISTICS OF MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS AND VACCINATION IN BERĀR

	1881.	1891.	1901.	1903-4.
Hospitals, &c.				
Number of civil hospitals and dispensaries . .	36	44	47	47
Average daily number of:—				
(*a*) In-patients . .	77·25	100	161·08	126·15
(*b*) Out-patients . .	1,437·17	1,803·97	2,303·10	2,056·98
Income from :—				
(*a*) Government payments . . Rs.	81,614	82,975	60,035	65,312*
(*b*) Local and municipal payments . Rs.	8,064	20,119	20,234	15,788*
(*c*) Fees, endowments, and other sources Rs.	10,062	4,040	4,405	8,294*
Expenditure on :—				
(*a*) Establishment . Rs.	74,058	76,959	48,987	52,567
(*b*) Medicines, diet, buildings, &c. Rs.	18,564	22,405	27,113	28,274
Vaccination.				
Population among whom vaccination was carried on	2,672,673	2,897,040	2,897,040	2,754,016
Number of successful operations	81,000	102,596	86,483	100,751
Ratio per 1,000 of population	30·8	36	29·9	36·58
Total expenditure on vaccination . . . Rs.	17,192	16,660	17,626	17,325
Cost per successful case Rs.	0-3-5	0-2-7	0-3-3	0-2-9

* These figures are for the calendar year 1903. Information for the official year 1903-4 is not available.

Insanity. No lunatic asylum has been established in the province, and lunatics for whose custody it is necessary to provide are sent to the asylum at Nāgpur. The principal causes of insanity are said to be the abuse of alcohol and narcotic drugs, enforced widowhood among Hindus and the *zanāna* system among Musalmāns, physical ailments, and pecuniary losses.

There was no indigenous method of inoculation in Berār

before the introduction of vaccination by the British Government, and it seems that vaccination was at first regarded, if not with disfavour, at least as an innovation of doubtful utility. This feeling has been gradually removed. Vaccination.

The pice-packet system of selling quinine through the agency of the Post Office was introduced in January, 1895, in which year 1,337 packets were sold. In 1896 the aid of the Forest department was enlisted. In 1904 the total number of packets sold was 281,729, and it is evident that the people are awakening to the value of this drug.

Village sanitation is attended to by village officials and by rural boards under the advice and encouragement of District sanitary boards and of officials on tour; but very much remains to be done in this direction, and it cannot be said that any considerable number of the people have as yet any knowledge of elementary sanitary principles. Village sanitation.

The revenue survey of Berār was begun in 1853-4, the year of Assignment, in the Malkāpur *tāluk*. In 1855-6 and 1857-8 the Bālāpur *tāluk* was surveyed, and the survey of the *tāluks* which then existed proceeded in the following order: Jalgaon (1857-8), Mehkar (1860-1), Akot, Chikhlī, Daryāpur, and Murtazāpur (1861-2). In the Berār revenue survey areas are calculated by the English acre, divided into 40 *guntas*, each *gunta* being subdivided into 16 'annas.' The chain used is 33 feet long, and is composed of 16 links. A *gunta* is one square chain, and an 'anna' is one chain long by one link broad. Native surveyors survey with the chain and a cross staff, and a proportion of their work is checked by the survey officer. The original survey of the province was generally checked and revised between 1891 and 1901, but the survey of the Kelāpur and Wūn *tāluks* has yet to be revised. *Munsarims*, under the control of Deputy-Commissioners and the department of Land Records and Agriculture, are entrusted with the duty of keeping surveys up to date. Many of the *patwāris* go through a course of surveying in the Survey Training School at Akola. Surveys.

[A. C. Lyall, *Berār Gazetteer* (1870); *The Gazetteer of Aurangābād* (1884); Dr. R. G. Bhandārkar, *Early History of the Dekkan* (1895); *Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India*, vol. xiii; *Records of the Geological Survey of India*, vol. i, part iii; *General Report of the Geological Survey of India* (1902-5); Brandis, *Suggestions regarding Forest Administration in the Hyderābād Assigned Districts* (1879); Tāluk Settlement Reports, enumerated under District articles.] Bibliography.

MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, ETC.

Ajanta Hills (or Inhyādri).—This range, also called the Chāndor, Sātmāla, or Inhyādri Hills, and Sahyādriparbat in Hyderābād territory, consists of a series of basalt pinnacles and ridges of the same geological formation as the Western Ghāts, from which it breaks off at right angles near Bhanvād in Nāsik District (Bombay), and runs nearly due east, with a general elevation of 4,000 feet or more, for about 50 miles, to near Manmād, where there is a wide gap through which the Great Indian Peninsula Railway passes. From Ankai, south of Manmād, the range runs eastward at a lower level for about 20 miles, widening into the small table-land of Rājāpur. At Kāsārī there is a second gap, from which the hills run north-eastwards for about 50 miles, dividing Khāndesh District from Aurangābād, to near Ajanta. Thence they again turn eastwards into Berār, entering Buldāna District, the southern portion of which they cover, and pass on into Akola and Yeotmāl. The Hyderābād Districts of Parbhani and Nizāmābād are traversed by the southern section of the range, locally called Sahyādriparbat. The length of the latter is about 150 miles, and of the section called Ajanta about 100. The range forms the northern wall of the Deccan table-land and the watershed between the Godāvari and Tāpti valleys, rising in parts of Berār into peaks of over 2,000 feet in height. The old routes followed by traders and invading armies from Gujarāt and Mālwā enter the Deccan at the Manmād and Kāsārī gaps, and at the passes of Gaotālā and Ajanta. At the last-named place, in the Nizām's Dominions, are the famous Buddhist cave-temples of Ajanta. The range is studded with hill forts, most of which were taken from the Peshwā's garrisons in 1818. The most notable points are Mārkinda (4,384 feet), a royal residence as early as A.D. 808, overlooking the road into Bāglān, and facing the holy hill of Saptashring (4,659 feet); Raulya-Jaulya, twin forts taken by the Mughals in 1635; Dhodap, the highest peak in the range (4,741 feet); Tudrai (4,526 feet); Chāndur, on the north of the Manmād gap; Ankai, to the south of the same; Manikpunj, on the west side of the Kāsārī gap; and Kanhira, overlooking the Pātna or Gaotālā pass. The drainage of the hills, which in Bombay are treeless save for a little scrub jungle in the hollows at their feet, feeds a number of streams

that flow northwards into the Girnā or southwards into the Godāvari. Beyond Bombay the hills are well wooded and picturesque, and abound in game. In Hyderābād they form the retreats of the aboriginal tribes, and in Yeotmāl District are peopled by Gonds, Pardhāns, and Kolāms as well as by Hindus. The hills are mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* under the name of Sahia or Sahsa.

Gāwīlgarh Hills.—Hill range in Berār, which branches off from the Sātpurā mountains, and lies between 21° 10′ and 21° 47′ N. and 76° 40′ and 77° 53′ E. It is named from the fort of GĀWĪLGARH, which is situated on its southern side. The range is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* under the name of Banda. It passes in a south-westerly direction through Betūl, the Melghāt or upland country of Amraotī, and the southern portion of Nimār, terminating at the junction of the Tāpti with its principal tributary, the Pūrna. In the Melghāt the crest of the range attains an average elevation of 3,400 feet above sea-level, the highest point, Bairāt, being 3,989 feet. The mean height of the lower hills, bordering on the Tāpti, is about 1,650 feet. The range is composed of Deccan trap, of the Upper Cretaceous or lower eocene group. The chief passes are Malharā on the east, Deūlghāt on the west, and Bingāra on the extreme west; the first two have been made practicable for wheeled traffic, and the same may be said of communications in the Melghāt generally.

Pengangā.—River of Berār, having its source in the hills beyond Deūlghāt, on the western border of Buldāna District, in 20° 31′ N. and 76° 2′ E. After flowing in a south-easterly direction through this District and a portion of Akola, it forms the southern boundary of Berār, joining the Wardhā, which forms the eastern boundary of the province, at Jugād, in the south-eastern corner of Yeotmāl District (19° 52′ N. and 79° 11′ E.). The course of the Pengangā, from its source to the point where it joins the Wardhā, exceeds 200 miles in length. Its principal tributaries are the Pūs; the Arna and Arān, which unite before they flow into it; the Chandrabhāga; the Wāghāri, which displays on its banks a curious laminated formation of Purāna sandstone; and the Vaidarbha, which is the adjectival form of the name of the old kingdom of heroic times. All these tributaries flow into the Pengangā from the north.

Pūrna (the ancient Payoshnī).—River of Berār, having its source in the Gāwīlgarh Hills, in 21° 36′ N. and 77° 36′ E. After flowing for about 50 miles in a south-westerly direction, it runs in a westerly course, about midway between the

Gāwīlgarh and Bālāghāt Hills, draining the central valley of Berār. Its tributaries from the northern range of hills are the Bichan, the Shahnūr, the Sapan, the Pālor, the Chandrabhāga, the Mohasli, and the Bhān; and from the southern range the Kāta Pūrna, the Mūrna, the Mūn, the Bordī, the Ghān, the Biswa (Vishvagangā), and the Nalgangā. The Pūrna is the boundary between the Daryāpur, Akot, and Jālgaon *tāluks* on the north, and the Murtazāpur, Akola, Bālāpur, Khāmgaon, and Malkāpur *tāluks* on the south. It ultimately falls into the Tāpti.

Wardhā.—River in the Central Provinces, which rises in the Multai plateau of Betūl District, at 21° 50′ N. and 78° 24′ E., about 70 miles north-west of Nāgpur city, and, flowing south and south-east, separates the Nāgpur, Wardhā, and Chānda Districts of the Central Provinces from Amraotī and Yeotmāl of Berār and Sirpur Tāndūr of the Nizām's Dominions. After a course of 290 miles from its source, the Wardhā meets the Waingangā at Seonī in Chānda District, and the united stream under the name of the Prānhita flows on to join the Godāvari. The bed of the Wardhā, from its source to its junction with the Pengangā at Jugād in the south-east corner of Yeotmāl, is deep and rocky, changing from a swift torrent in the monsoon months to a succession of nearly stagnant pools in the summer. For the last hundred miles of its course below Chānda, it flows in a clear channel broken only by a barrier of rocks commencing above the confluence of the Waingangā and extending into the Prānhita. The project entertained in the years 1866–71 for rendering the Godāvari and Wardhā navigable included the excavation of a channel through this expanse of rock, which was known as the Third Barrier. The scheme proved impracticable; and except that timber is sometimes floated down from the Ahiri forests in the monsoon months, no use is now made of the river for navigation. The area drained by the Wardhā includes Wardhā District, with parts of Nāgpur and Chānda in the Central Provinces, and the eastern and southern portion of Berār. The principal tributaries of the Wardhā are the Wunnā and Erai from the east, and the Bembla and Pengangā, which drain the southern and eastern portions of the plain of Berār. The banks of the river are in several places picturesquely crowned by small temples and tombs, and numerous ruined forts in the background recall the wild period of Marāthā wars and Pindāri raids. Kundalpur (Dewalwāra) on the Berār bank opposite to Wardhā District is believed to represent the site of

a buried city, celebrated in the Bhagavadgītā as the metropolis of the kingdom of Vidarbha (Berār). A large religious fair is held there. At Ballālpur near Chānda are the ruins of a palace of the Gond kings, and a curious temple on an islet in the river which for some months in the year is several feet under water. The Wardhā is crossed by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Pulgaon.

Bālāghāt.—The name given in Berār to the upland country above the Ajanta ridge, sloping southwards beyond the *ghāts* or passes which lead up to it from the north. The Bālāghāt is the most northerly portion of the table-land of the Deccan.

Pāyānghāt.—The name given in Berār to the valley of the Pūrna river, the principal affluent of the Tāpti. The valley lies between the Melghāt or Gāwīlgarh Hills on the north and the Ajanta range on the south, and varies in breadth from 40 to 50 miles. Except the Pūrna, which is the main artery of the river system, scarcely a stream in this tract is perennial.

AMRAOTĪ DISTRICT

Boundaries, configuration, and hill and river systems.

Amraotī District (*Umrāvatī*).—District of Berār, lying between 20° 25′ and 21° 37′ N. and 77° 16′ and 78° 29′ E., with an area of 2,759 square miles. Changes made in 1905 are described at the end of this article, which deals with the District before the change. The name is said by native philologers to be derived from the old temple of Ambā Devī in Amraotī. The derivation is exceedingly doubtful, but no other can be suggested. The District is bounded on the north by the Ellichpur *tāluk* and by the Betūl District of the Central Provinces; on the east by the Wardhā river; on the south by the Yeotmāl, Dārwhā, and Mangrūl *tāluks*; and on the west by the Akola and Daryāpur *tāluks*.

Amraotī is a plain about 800 feet above sea-level, the soil of which is principally black loam overlying basalt, with a gentle slope from north to south, watered by numerous streams. A small chain of barren and stony hills, too insignificant to bear a name, runs in a north-westerly direction between Chāndūr and Amraotī town, with an average height of 400 to 500 feet above the lowlands.

The Pūrna rises in the southern slopes of the Gāwīlgarh hills, and flows southwards, partly through Ellichpur and partly through Amraotī, until it turns westward and forms the boundary between the Murtazāpur and Daryāpur *tāluks*, passing thence into Akola District. The Bembla rises near Kāranja Bībī and flows in a semicircular course, north-easterly and south-easterly, into Wūn District. The remainder of the river system consists mainly of insignificant streams flowing eastwards into the Wardhā.

Geology and botany.

The geology of the District, which lies entirely within the Pāyānghāt, is fully noticed in the description of BERĀR; and the flora is in all respects similar to that of the rest of the Pāyānghāt, with the exception that the vegetation in the neighbourhood of the range of low hills between Amraotī town and Chāndūr is scanty, and resembles that which fringes the lower slopes of the Gāwīlgarh Hills.

Fauna.

Game is less plentiful than formerly. Tigers are now rarely found; but leopards, wild hog, spotted deer, and *nīlgai* are not uncommon, and antelope are seen almost everywhere.

Climate and temperature.

Climatic conditions are uniform throughout the District, and are similar to those prevailing elsewhere in the Pāyānghāt.

The heat in March, April, and May is great, but the nights are usually cool, the highest and lowest readings of the thermometer in May being 115° and 76°. The rainy season is temperate, the maximum and minimum in July being 96° and 70°; and the cold season, comprising the months of November, December, and January, is cool, the readings in December being 88° and 55°.

The rainfall recorded in 1903 was 29 inches. It is generally constant, with few variations from year to year, a circumstance which has led to the fallacious conclusion that it never failed. This prophecy was rudely shaken in 1896–7, and completely falsified in 1899. Amraotī has been fortunate in escaping serious natural calamities other than famine. Rainfall.

The District was never a political entity by itself, and its history, apart from that of the province in which it has always been included, is of no particular interest. But little is known of the history even of the capital town. History.

At the Assignment of Berār, in 1853, the province was divided into two Districts, East and West Berār, Amraotī being selected as the head-quarters of the former, which included the Districts of Amraotī, Ellichpur, and Wūn. In 1864 Wūn, at first named the South-east Berār District, was separated from Amraotī; and in 1867 Ellichpur District, which included at first the Morsī *tāluk*, subsequently restored to Amraotī, was formed. Between 1867 and 1872, when Berār was divided into the two Commissionerships of East and West Berār, Amraotī was the head-quarters of the former.

The District contains no archaeological remains of interest.

The number of towns and villages is 1,072. The population increased from 1867 to 1891 and then declined. The numbers at the several enumerations have been as follows: (1867) 501,331, (1881) 575,328, (1891) 655,645, and (1901) 630,118. The decline in the last decade was due to the famine of 1899–1900. The District is divided into the four *tāluks* of AMRAOTĪ, CHĀNDŪR, MURTAZĀPUR, and MORSĪ. The chief towns are AMRAOTĪ, KĀRANJA BĪBĪ, and BADNERA. The people.

The District is more densely populated than any other in Berār. More than 76 per cent. of the people are Hindus. The language of the people generally is Marāthī; but the Musalmāns, who number 49,000, speak a corrupt dialect of Urdū which is generally understood by all.

The Kunbīs, who number 159,000, or more than 25 per cent. of the total, are the most important caste in Amraotī, as in all Districts of Berār. The Mālīs (56,000) are also Castes and occupations.

an important cultivating caste. The Mahārs (96,000) come next to the Kunbīs in point of numbers; the Mālīs, already mentioned, come third; and the Musalmāns (49,000) fourth. The Telīs (26,000) are more than twice as numerous as in any other District in Berār, except Wūn. Brāhmans number 20,000. As might be expected from the preponderance of agricultural castes, the proportion of the population dependent on the land is very large, being as high as 72 per cent. Industries support nearly 14 per cent. of the total.

The following table gives, for each *tāluk*, the statistics of area, population, &c., in 1901:—

Tāluk.	Area in square miles.	Number of Towns.	Number of Villages.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
Amraotī	672	5	259	175,557	261	− 4·3	13,793
Murtazāpur	610	2	260	118,022	193	− 2·9	5,467
Chāndūr	855	4	307	192,805	225	− 2·6	8,575
Morsī	622	4	231	143,734	231	− 5·6	6,591
District total	2,759	15	1,057	630,118	228	− 3·9	34,426

Christian missions.

There is one Roman Catholic mission in the District, at Amraotī, under the charge of the Order of St. Francis of Sales, and in the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Nāgpur. The Protestant missions are the Alliance Mission, the United Free Church Mission, the American Free Methodist Mission, and the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Of the 782 Christians enumerated in the District in 1901, 436 were natives, of whom more than half were Roman Catholics.

General agricultural conditions.

The District lies wholly within the Pāyānghāt (*see* BERĀR) and is generally fertile; but the soil in the neighbourhood of the rocky hills between Amraotī town and Chāndūr, and in the tract at the foot of the Gāwīlgarh Hills in the north of the Morsī *tāluk*, is lighter and more stony than in the rest of the District, resembling in character the soil of the Bālāghāt.

Chief agricultural statistics and principal crops.

Land is held almost entirely on *ryotwāri* tenures, the area occupied by *jāgīr* villages being only 36 square miles. The chief agricultural statistics in 1903–4 are shown below, in square miles:—

Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Cultivable waste.	Forest.
2,760	2,353¼	5	¼	244

The staple food-grain is *jowār*, the area under which in 1903–4 was 898 square miles. Wheat occupied 126, and pulses 97 square miles. The principal crop from the point of view of profit to the cultivator is cotton, which covered 1,075 square miles. Oilseeds, the chief of which is linseed, were sown on 44 square miles.

The extension of agriculture has been continuous since the Assignment in 1853, but nothing has been done for the improvement of agriculture from a scientific point of view. On the contrary, the quality of the principal crop, cotton, has declined, owing to the preference of the cultivator for prolific varieties of short staple. Since the famine of 1899–1900 the people have availed themselves more freely of loans from Government. Improvements in agricultural practice.

The principal breed of cattle is the Umarda, or smaller variety of the Berāri breed, but the Arvī breed is very common, and there has been much crossing between these two varieties. Since the famine of 1899–1900 animals of the Nimāri, Sholāpuri, Labbāni, and Hoshangābādi breeds have been imported. Buffaloes are chiefly of the Nāgpuri breed. Ponies bred locally are weedy and inferior, and the local breeds of sheep and goats are poor, but goats of the Gujarāti breed are kept in towns. Cattle, &c.

Irrigation is at present confined almost entirely to garden crops, which are grown on lands watered from wells. The area thus irrigated in 1903–4 amounted to less than 5 square miles. The reconstruction of an old dam near the village of Sālbardī in Betūl District of the Central Provinces, just beyond the border of the Morsī *tāluk*, will allow of irrigation in the neighbourhood of the village of Pālā on a scale more extensive than is usual in Berār. Irrigation.

The forests supply no valuable timber. There are four Reserves with a total area of 46 square miles; but these may be described generally as grass land with low open scrub growth, the soil being so shallow, and the rainfall so light, that timber trees can never attain any respectable size. Teak grows naturally in three of these areas, and has been introduced, with but scanty success, into the fourth. In one alone is this growth of any value. The scrub growth consists of teak (*Tectona grandis*), *salai* (*Boswellia serrata*), *lendia* (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), *dhaura* (*Anogeissus latifolia*), *mahuā* (*Bassia latifolia*), and other species. Nine more square miles of the forests of this class consist of *babūl bans*, or groves of *Acacia arabica*, sparingly interspersed with *Acacia leucophloea*, Forests.

Acacia eburnea, and *Prosopis spicigera*. The *babūl* is raised mainly in plantations, and commands a ready sale as fuel for ginning factories. The scanty tree-growth of the grazing lands is fit only for fuel, and goes to meet the demands of privilege holders.

Arts and manufactures. Arts and manufactures are unimportant. The silk-weaving industry which formerly flourished at Kholāpur has dwindled, and there are now only two hand-looms for the weaving of silk in the town. Cotton cloth and yarn are manufactured in a steam mill at Badnera. The principal industry is the preparation of cotton for the market. The District contains 36 ginning factories and 21 cotton-presses, worked by steam.

Commerce. Raw cotton is the chief export, and is sent by rail to Bombay and Calcutta, the only other exports worthy of mention being oilseeds, grain, and pulse. The chief imports are grain and pulse, coal and coke, salt, and sugar. Oilseeds, grain, and pulse are exported to Bombay and the Central Provinces. Grain and pulse are imported chiefly from the United Provinces and the Central Provinces, coal and coke from the Central Provinces and Bengal, salt from Bombay, and sugar chiefly from Bombay, but also from Bengal and the United Provinces. Most of the internal trade is effected through the agency of the cotton markets established at large centres, and the weekly markets throughout the District. The latter are managed by the District and *tāluk* boards.

Railways. The Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway traverses the District from east to west, its length in the District being about 68 miles. From Badnera junction a State railway, 6 miles in length, runs to Amraotī town.

Roads. The total length of metalled roads is 157 miles, and of unmetalled roads 413 miles. The former, with the exception of 11 miles, are in charge of the Public Works department, and the rest are in charge of the District board. Of the roads repaired by the Public Works department, 26 miles are maintained from Local funds. The chief roads are those from Amraotī town towards Ellichpur and Chāndūr Bāzār, to Pusla through Morsī, and from Murtazāpur to Kāranja Bībī.

Famine. In respect of liability to famine the District differs in no way from other parts of Berār, and it has suffered from all the famines which have attacked the province. In the great famine of 1839 the distress was very severe, and no measures of relief were attempted by the native government. The extensive emigration which took place at this period must have been a powerful factor in reducing the District to its poor

condition at the time of the Assignment in 1853. The District suffered, though less than Akola, from the scarcity of 1896–7, and very much more severely in the famine of 1899–1900. At the height of the last famine, in July, 1900, 52,644 persons were on relief works and 86,737 more were in receipt of gratuitous relief; and it is calculated that 53 per cent. of the cattle died.

A *tahsīldār* is stationed at the head-quarters of each of the four[1] *tāluks*, but there is no subdivision in the District. The superior staff consists of the usual officers. District staff.

For judicial purposes the District forms part of the Civil and Sessions District of East Berār, the District Judge of which has his head-quarters at Amraotī and exercises, besides his jurisdiction in civil suits, the powers of a Court of Session. Four Subordinate Judges and four Munsifs exercise jurisdiction in the District. Civil and criminal justice.

Cases of dacoity, cattle-theft, and housebreaking fluctuate much in numbers with the state of the season, but are not exceptionally common. Murder, which is rare, generally proceeds from private personal motives.

It appears from the *Ain-i-Akbarī* that the land revenue demand in the *parganas* now comprised in Amraotī District was 21 lakhs, including *suyūrghāl*. In 1853, when Berār was 'assigned' to the East India Company, the demand for the same *parganas*, as returned by the officials of the Hyderābād State, was only 7 lakhs, including the demand in *jāgīr* villages. These figures afford a very clear indication of the extent to which Berār suffered from the wars, natural calamities, and maladministration of the latter part of the seventeenth, the eighteenth, and the early part of the nineteenth centuries. After the Assignment it was found impossible to collect the revenue even at this low rate; but by degrees those whom the oppression of the revenue farmers and extortionate *tālukdārs* had driven from the land began to return, and the cultivation of cotton was stimulated by the American Civil War. The first regular settlement after the Assignment was made between the years 1870 and 1875. This expired between 1900 and 1904; but owing to the famine of 1899–1900, the new settlement was not brought into force before 1903–4 in three *tāluks*, and in the Chāndūr *tāluk* not until 1904–5. The land revenue demand in 1903–4 was nearly 21 lakhs, a sum which greatly exceeds the demand in 1853, and is about equal to Akbar's demand, although the area under cultivation must be much Land revenue.

[1] The District, as reconstituted in 1905, contains six *tāluks*.

larger and prices have risen since the sixteenth century. Under the new settlement, however, the demand has been largely increased, by amounts varying in different *tāluks* from 25 to 50 per cent. Under this settlement land in the Amraotī *tāluk* will be assessed at a uniform rate of Rs. 2–12 per acre, in Morsī the maximum rate will be Rs. 2–12 and the minimum Rs. 2–8, and in Murtazāpur and Chāndūr the maximum and minimum rates will be Rs. 2–10 and Rs. 2–4. Rice land is assessed at a uniform rate of Rs. 6 per acre. Land irrigated from wells pays under the new settlement at the same rates as 'dry-crop' land, but on land irrigated from tanks and streams a combined land and water rate of Rs. 8 per acre is levied.

Collections on account of land revenue and revenue from all sources are shown in the following table, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-1.	1890-1.	1900-1.	1903-4.
Land revenue .	15,79	15,88	16,28	18,83
Total revenue .	20,78	24,08	22,34	27,54

Local boards.

Outside the three municipalities of AMRAOTĪ TOWN, AMRAOTĪ civil station, and KĀRANJA, local affairs are managed by the District board and the four *tāluk* boards. The total expenditure of these in 1903–4 was Rs. 1,32,443, of which the two principal items were education (Rs. 45,145) and petty establishments (Rs. 35,224). The chief source of income is the land cess.

Police and jails.

The District Superintendent of police has also general control over the railway police on that portion of the line which runs through the District. There are 32 police stations, and the railway police have a station at Badnera and 4 outposts. The total force numbers 618 of all ranks. The jail at Amraotī is a combined District and Central jail, and, besides accommodating all prisoners sentenced in the District, receives long-term prisoners from Ellichpur and Wūn.

Education.

Amraotī stands second among the six Districts of Berār in regard to the literacy of its population, of whom 5·4 per cent. (9·1 males and 0·4 females) were able to read and write in 1901. In 1903–4 the District contained 140 public, 76 aided, and 15 unaided schools, the number of pupils in the public schools being 9,770 and in the others 2,107. Girls attending school numbered 638. The three special schools include the Government industrial school at Amraotī, which has hitherto been

only moderately successful. A scheme for amalgamating it with a larger industrial school, to be established as a memorial to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, is under consideration. The other two special schools are those for Europeans and Eurasians at Amraotī. Education is making fair progress. Of the male population of school-going age 12 per cent. were in the primary stage of instruction, and of the female population of the same age 0·9 per cent. The total expenditure on education in 1903–4 was 1·3 lakhs, of which Rs. 8,784 were derived from fees and Rs. 69,000 was contributed by local bodies.

Hospitals and dispensaries.

The District contains one civil hospital, one hospital for females supported by the Lady Dufferin Fund, and nine dispensaries. All these institutions together contain accommodation for 81 in-patients. In 1903 the number of cases treated was 74,227, of whom 981 were in-patients, and 2,392 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 21,458, the greater part of which was met from Provincial revenues.

Vaccination.

Vaccination has made satisfactory progress. In 1903–4 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 34·28 per 1,000, the mean for the province being 36·58. Vaccination is compulsory in the three municipalities of Amraotī town, Amraotī civil station, and Kāranja.

Reconstitution of District.

In August, 1905, when the six Districts of Berār were reconstituted, the whole of Ellichpur District was incorporated in Amraotī, and on the other hand the Murtazāpur *tāluk* was transferred to Akola. The present area of Amraotī District is 4,754 square miles, and the population of that area in 1901 was 809,499.

[F. W. Francis, *Tāluk Settlement Reports: Amraotī* (1899), *Murtazāpur* (1899), *Morsī* (1899), and *Chāndūr* (1900).]

Amraotī Tāluk.—Head-quarters *tāluk* of the District of the same name in Berār, lying between 20° 41′ and 21° 12′ N. and 77° 32′ and 78° 2′ E., with an area of 672 square miles. Population fell from 183,508 in 1891 to 175,557 in 1901; but its density, 261 persons per square mile, is higher than in any other *tāluk* of the District, save Ellichpur. The *tāluk* contains 259 villages and five towns: AMRAOTĪ (population, 39,511, including the civil station which is counted as a separate town), BADNERA (10,859), KHOLĀPUR (5,373), and WALGAON *jāgīr* (5,284). The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 6,21,000, and for cesses Rs. 49,000. The *tāluk* lies in the fertile valley of Berār, but the almost uniform characteristics of this valley are broken by a low range of stony and barren hills running from Amraotī town towards Chāndūr.

Chāndūr Tāluk.—South-eastern *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, lying between 20° 31′ and 21° 13′ N. and 77° 40′ and 78° 18′ E., with an area of 855 square miles. The population fell from 198,106 in 1891 to 192,805 in 1901; and its density, 225 persons per square mile, is the lowest in the District, the Melghāt *tāluk* excepted. The *tāluk* contains 307 villages and four towns: CHĀNDŪR (population, 5,700), the head-quarters, MANGRŪL DASTGĪR (6,588), TALEGAON-DASHASAHASRA (6,220), and DATTAPUR (5,187). Talegaon was formerly the head-quarters of the *tāluk*, but Chāndūr was selected subsequently, as being on the railway. The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 3,80,000, and for cesses Rs. 29,000. The *tāluk* lies in the central valley of Berār and in the valley of the Wardhā river, which bounds it on the east; but the uniform fertility of these two tracts is varied by the aridity of a low range of rocky hills running from Chāndūr to Amraotī.

Daryāpur.—*Tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, lying between 20° 49′ and 21° 20′ N. and 77° 11′ and 77° 38′ E., with an area of 505 square miles. The population fell from 122,552 in 1891 to 113,698 in 1901. The density is 227 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 244 villages and one town, ANJANGAON (population, 8,783), the population of Daryāpur, the head-quarters of the *tāluk*, being only 4,389. The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 6,11,000, and for cesses Rs. 48,000. The *tāluk* lies in the fertile Pāyānghāt valley, being bounded on the north by the Gāwīlgarh Hills, and is well watered by streams running southwards from those hills into the Pūrna. Daryāpur was formerly a *tāluk* of Ellichpur, but was, with the rest of that District, incorporated in Amraotī District in August, 1905.

Ellichpur Subdivision.—Subdivision of Amraotī District, Berār, consisting of the ELLICHPUR and MELGHĀT *tāluks*.

Ellichpur Tāluk.—Formerly the head-quarters *tāluk* of Ellichpur District, but since August, 1905, a *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, lying between 21° 9′ and 21° 24′ N. and 77° 23′ and 77° 53′ E., with an area of 469 square miles. The population fell from 146,215 in 1891 to 146,035 in 1901; but its density, 311 persons per square mile, is higher than in any other *tāluk* in Berār. The *tāluk* contains 214 villages and five towns: ELLICHPUR (population, 26,082), the head-quarters, PARATWĀDA (10,410), KARASGAON (7,456), SIRASGAON (6,537), and CHĀNDŪR BĀZĀR (5,208). The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 5,17,000, and for cesses Rs. 41,000. The

tāluk lies in the Pāyānghāt, and is bounded on the north by the Gāwīlgarh Hills.

Melghāt.—Northernmost *tāluk* of Berār, formerly part of Ellichpur District, but since August, 1905, incorporated in Amraotī District, lying between 21° 10′ and 21° 47′ N. and 76° 38′ and 70° 40′ E., with an area of 1,631 square miles. The population fell from 46,849 in 1891 to 36,670 in 1901, the decrease being due to the famine of 1899–1900, which led very many of the Korkūs to emigrate northwards. The density of the population, 22 persons per square mile, is lower than in any other *tāluk* of Berār. Villages, many of which are small collections of Korkū dwellings, number 330; and the *tāluk* contains no town. Its head-quarters are at the sanitarium of CHIKALDA. The inhabitants are principally Korkūs; and the *tāluk*, a very large proportion of which is state forest, lies entirely in the Gāwīlgarh Hills, a branch of the Sātpurā range. The land assessment is based, not on acreage, but on ox-gangs, or the area which can be ploughed by a pair of bullocks. The demand for land revenue and cesses in 1903–4 was Rs. 44,000.

Morsī Tāluk.—*Tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, lying between 21° 12′ and 21° 34′ N. and 77° 48′ and 78° 29′ E., with an area of 662 square miles. The population fell from 152,374 in 1891 to 143,734 in 1901, its density in the latter year being 231 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 231 villages and four towns: MORSĪ (population, 8,313), the head-quarters, WARUD (7,179), SENDURJANA (6,860), and NER PINGLAI (5,408). The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 5,18,000, and for cesses Rs. 41,000. The *tāluk* lies chiefly in the fertile valley of the Wardhā river, which bounds it on the east and south-east; but a narrow tract along its north-western border occupies the lower slopes of the Sātpurā Hills.

Amraotī Town.—Head-quarters of the District and *tāluk* of the same name in Berār, situated in 20° 56′ N. and 77° 47′ E. Population (1901), 34,216, while the civil station, 3 miles distant from the town, has an additional 5,295. Of the inhabitants of the town, 26,773 were Hindus, 6,295 Musalmāns, 781 Jains, and 112 Christians.

The temple of Bhawāni or Ambā Devī, which furnishes a doubtful derivation for the name of the town, was the traditional scene of the votive ceremonies of Rukminī, sister of Rukmin, Rājā of Vidarbha, before her projected marriage to Sisupāla, Rājā of Chedi, which was prevented by the demi-god

Krishna carrying her off from Amraotī. But the town has no historical importance, and is not to be confounded with the Amraotī mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as a *pargana* town in the *sarkār* of Kalam, which was Rāne Amraotī, now a village in Yeotmāl District and *tāluk*. The commercial importance of Amraotī is of recent growth, and is not traceable beyond the latter part of the eighteenth century, when a large number of people, driven from Akola by the tyranny of the *tālukdār*, emigrated to Amraotī. In 1804 General Wellesley, afterwards Duke of Wellington, encamped here after the capture of Gāwīlgarh. A strong stone wall from 20 to 26 feet in height, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles in circuit, and having four gates and five wickets, surrounds the town. The wall was begun in 1807 by the Nizām's government to protect wealthy traders of the town from the Pindāris. The *Khunarī* (bloody) wicket is said to be so called from 700 persons having fallen in a fight close to it in 1818. About sixty years ago Amraotī received another large addition to its population from Akola. In 1848 the price of *jowār*, the staple food of the people, rose tenfold at Amraotī owing to drought, and the populace murdered Dhanrāj Sāhu, a wealthy trader, who had bought up large quantities of rice.

There are two municipalities, one for the town, created in 1867, and another for the civil station. The receipts and expenditure during the ten years ending 1900–1 averaged Rs. 53,000 in the town, and Rs. 14,000 and Rs. 14,700 in the civil station. The incomes of the town and civil station in 1903–4 were Rs. 53,000 and Rs. 18,000 respectively, the principal sources being taxes in the case of the town and taxes and cesses in the case of the civil station. The expenditure in the town was Rs. 72,000, chiefly on water-supply and conservancy, and in the civil station Rs. 13,000, chiefly on public works and conservancy. The town obtains its water-supply, which is precarious in years of deficient rainfall, from the Kālāpāni tank, the civil station being supplied from the Wadāli tank. Amraotī was formerly the local head-quarters of the Berār administration, and is still the head-quarters of the Revenue Division of Berār; but the Court of the Judicial Commissioner has been removed to Nāgpur since the transfer of the province to the administration of the Central Provinces. There are two high schools, one maintained by Government and the other by private enterprise, several primary schools, two dispensaries, and a Lady Dufferin hospital. Two vernacular newspapers, the *Vaidarbha* and the *Pramoda Sindhu*, are published here. The town now contains 11 ginning factories and 19 cotton

presses. It is the principal cotton-mart in Berār, and is connected with the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Badnera by a branch (state) railway 6 miles in length. Until the railway diverted the trade to Bombay, the Amraotī cotton was chiefly sent to Mirzāpur on the Ganges on pack-bullocks. In 1842 a single merchant is said to have dispatched 100,000 bullock-loads by this route to Calcutta.

Anjangaon.—Town in the Daryāpur *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 10′ N. and 77° 20′ E. Population (1901), 8,783. The town stands on the Shāhnūr river and is a centre of local trade, the principal articles of commerce being *pān*, cotton cloth, and basket-work. It was here that the treaty of December 30, 1803, with Daulat Rao Sindhia was signed by General Arthur Wellesley, as Agent to the Governor-General, after the third Marāthā War, which terminated with the fall of Gāwīlgarh.

Badnera (or Wadnera).—Town in the District and *tāluk* of Amraotī, Berār, situated in 20° 52′ N. and 70° 46′ E. Population (1901), 10,859. The town is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as the head-quarters of a *pargana* in the *sarkār* of Gāwīl. It is known as Badnera Bībī, as it formed, with Kāranja, part of the dowry of Daulat Shāh Begam, daughter of Daryā Imād Shāh of Berār, who was given in marriage to Husain Nizām Shāh of Ahmadnagar. The exactions of successive rulers depopulated Badnera, and it was plundered in 1822 by Rājā Rām, who partly demolished the fort and town walls. The railway station (Badnera junction) is 413 miles from Bombay, on the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. It is connected with Amraotī by a branch (state) railway 6 miles long. Badnera is important as the station whence all the Amraotī cotton is dispatched to Bombay. The town contains a cotton-spinning and weaving factory, where 248 looms and 16,336 spindles were at work in 1903–4, the number of hands employed being 822.

Bhātkulī.—Village in the District and *tāluk* of Amraotī, Berār, situated in 20° 54′ N. and 77° 39′ E., 10 miles from Amraotī town. Population (1901), 2,767. Rājā Rukmin of Vidarbha is said to have retired to this place after the abduction of his sister Rukminī by Krishna.

Chāndūr Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 49′ N. and 78° 2′ E. Population (1901), 5,700. The station on the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is 430

miles from Bombay. The town contains 5 cotton-presses and 12 ginning factories.

Chāndūr.—Town in the Ellichpur *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 15′ N. and 77° 47′ E. Population (1901), 5,208. A weekly market, which yields considerable revenue, is held here and gives to the town the name Chāndūr Bāzār, by which it is usually known in order to distinguish it from the head-quarters of the Chāndūr *tāluk*.

Chikalda.—Sanitarium in the Melghāt *tāluk*, Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 24′ N. and 77° 22′ E., on a plateau in the Sātpurā Hills, about 5 miles in length and three-quarters of a mile broad, 3,664 feet above the sea; distant about a mile and a half from Gāwīlgarh fort and rather less than 20 miles from Ellichpur. Chikalda is connected with Ellichpur by three roads, one of which, 30 miles in length, is suitable for carriages. At Ghatang, about half-way between Ellichpur and Chikalda, is a travellers' bungalow, which is an agreeable resting-place. There is no tonga service between Ellichpur and Chikalda, and travellers must make their own arrangements with the *tahsīldār* at the former place for carriage. Chikalda has been a favourite Berār sanitarium since 1839, when the first bungalows were built on the plateau by officers of the Ellichpur Brigade. The heads of departments in Berār spend a portion of the hot season at Chikalda, which is also the head-quarters of the Conservator of Forests and of the *tahsīldār* of the Melghāt. The climate, though not to be compared with that of sanitaria at higher elevations in the Himālayas and Nīlgiris, is equable, cool, and bracing. The mean temperature in May, July, and December, which may be selected as typical of the hot, rainy, and cold seasons, is 86°, 75°, and 65°. The scenery is beautiful, and the vegetation luxuriant and varied in character—roses, clematis, orchids, ferns, and lilies succeeding each other with the changing seasons. Balsams, zinnias, wild ginger, and orchis also abound. Excellent potatoes were formerly grown at Chikalda, and tea might possibly be grown, though not in quantities sufficient to justify the exploitation of the limited area of the Chikalda plateau. The coffee grown in private gardens is of excellent quality; and the plateau, if brought under cultivation, could doubtless supply vegetables for a European community larger than that which is now accommodated in the twelve houses in Chikalda, and in an hotel. At Mariampur, near Chikalda, the order of St. Francis of Sales has a mission.

Dattāpur.—Town in the Chāndūr *tāluk* of Amraotī District,

Berār, situated in 20° 47′ N. and 78° 11′ E. Population (1901), 5,187. The place is a local centre of the cotton trade, with some cotton-ginning factories and presses.

Ellichpur Town.—Head-quarters of the Ellichpur *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 16′ N. and 77° 33′ E. The population in 1901 numbered 26,082, of whom 18,440 were Hindus, 7,244 Musalmāns, 231 Jains, and 136 Animists. Until August, 1905, Ellichpur was the head-quarters of a District of the same name.

The town of Ellichpur has an interesting history. Local legend ascribes its foundation to the eponymous Rājā Il, said to have been a Jain who came from the village in Ellichpur District now known as Khān Zamānnagar, in Samvat 1115, corresponding to A.D. 1058. The legend represents him as a powerful independent Rājā; but from all that is known of the history of Berār at this period it seems that the province formed part of the kingdom of Somesvara I, of the restored Chālukya dynasty. The absurdities of the legend of the war of Rājā Il with Shāh Abdur-Rahmān Ghāzi, a hero of the 'headless horseman' type, said to be, like Sālār Masūd of Bahraich, a nephew of Mahmūd of Ghaznī, are sufficient to cast a doubt on the very existence of Rajā Il; and it is not improbable that the whole story is a corruption of the Pachpirya legends of Northern India.

The first mention of Ellichpur in authentic history is made by Baranī, who describes it as being, towards the end of the thirteenth century A.D., 'one of the famous cities of the Deccan.' The city, and the district of which it was the capital, were assigned to Alā-ud-dīn after his first expedition to Deogiri, in 1294, but still remained under Hindu administration, the revenues being remitted to Delhi. On the final fall of Deogiri in 1318, the city, with the rest of Berār, came under the direct administration of the Muhammadan conquerors. During the rule of the Bahmani Sultāns of the Deccan it was the capital of the *taraf* or province of Berār. Muhammad Shāh (1378–97), the fifth king of that dynasty, established here an orphanage after the famine which occurred during his reign. Fīroz Shāh, the eighth king, halted at Ellichpur in 1400 while his generals undertook a successful expedition against the Gond kingdom of Kherla; and Ahmad Shāh Walī, the brother and successor of Fīroz, halted with his army at the provincial capital, while the forts of Gāwīlgarh and Narnāla were being built and repaired between 1425 and 1428. From 1490 to 1572 Ellichpur was the capital of Berār under the kings of the Imād Shāhi

dynasty[1]. On the overthrow of that dynasty by Murtazā Nizām Shāh of Ahmadnagar in the latter year, the town again became a provincial capital. In the early days of the Mughal occupation of Berār its importance declined, owing to the selection of Bālāpur as the seat of the provincial governor; but it soon regained its position as the capital of the imperial *Sūbah* of Berār. It again lost most of its local prestige when Asaf Jāh, the first Nizām, in 1724 became virtually the independent ruler of the Deccan, and the city was placed under a governor subordinate to the viceroy. The first governor appointed was Iwaz Khān, who ruled for five years (1724–8), and was succeeded by Shujāat Khān (1729–40), who quarrelled with the Marāthā, Raghujī Bhonsla, fought with him near Bhugaon, and was killed in the battle. The victor plundered the Ellichpur treasury. Sharif Khān next succeeded and held office from 1751 to 1762. He claimed equality with the Nizām, who consequently deposed him. The Nizām's son, Alī Jāh Bahādur, was then appointed governor; but he administered by his deputy, Ismail Khān the Afghān, the first of a succession of Afghān governors. The next in succession was Salābat Khān, who, though he remained only two years at Ellichpur, did much to improve the city. He enlarged the palace, made a public garden, and extended the ancient water-channels. He was a brave soldier, and, on war breaking out between the Nizām and Tipu Sultān, he was ordered to join the army, and distinguished himself in the field. He also saw service at the battle of Kardla, and was with General Wellesley's army in 1803. His son, Nāmdār Khān, received, besides his father's *jāgīr* of two lakhs, another of like value at Ellichpur, and succeeded his father as governor of Berār, with the title of Nawāb, holding the governorship till his death in 1843. He is said to have been placed by his father under the special protection of General Wellesley; and he received a separate *jāgīr* for the payment of the Ellichpur Brigade. After some years he fell into arrears and gave up the greater part of his *jāgīr*, retaining only a rental of £3,500. He was succeeded by his nephew, Ibrāhīm Khān, who lived until 1846, when his widow's father, Ghulām Hasan, was allowed to inherit the estate and the title of Nawāb on payment of a *nazarāna* of

[1] The kings of this dynasty were:—

1. Fathullāh Imād-ul-mulk	1490–1504
2. Alā-ud-dīn Imād Shāh	1504–29
3. Daryā Imād Shāh	1529–60
4. Burhān Imād Shāh	1560–72

7 lakhs. This sum he borrowed from a local banker, at whose suit the palace and other property of the Nawāb at Ellichpur were attached. The family is now extinct.

There is at Ellichpur a well-known *dargāh* or burial shrine, which bears the name of the mythical warrior, Abdur-Rahmān, already mentioned. Though the shrine is certainly not the resting-place of a nephew of Mahmūd of Ghaznī, it is by no means modern. It is said to have been built by one of the Bahmani Sultāns more than four hundred years ago, and may thus have been erected by Ahmad Shāh Walī during his visit to Ellichpur, in the belief that Mahmūd's nephew actually perished here; but as the legend of Dulhā Rahmān, as the saint is popularly known, connects this shrine with another at Kherla, where the hero's head is said to be buried, the more probable supposition is that it was erected by Fīroz Shāh to the memory of one of his captains slain at Kherla in 1400. The *urs* or anniversary ceremony of the mythical Abdur-Rahmān is celebrated annually by a fair on the 10th of Rabi-ul-awal. The old palace of the Nawābs is a building of little historical interest, but some of the tombs are handsome.

The municipality of Ellichpur was created in 1869, and the receipts and expenditure for the ten years ending 1901 averaged Rs. 19,000. In 1903-4 the income was Rs. 14,669, mainly derived from taxes; and the expenditure was Rs. 24,171, the principal heads being conservancy and public works. The municipality has not undertaken any new works of importance, but it maintains the old system of water-supply. The trade in cotton is considerable, the commodity being conveyed to Amraotī by road (32 miles). Cotton carpets are woven locally. There are excellent metalled roads connecting Ellichpur with Amraotī and with Chikalda via Ghatang (30 miles). Considerable quantities of forest produce are brought from Melghāt for sale in the weekly market. The more important public buildings are at the civil station of PARATWĀDA, 2 miles distant. In the town are several relics of the Nawābs, such as gardens, wells, mosques, &c., besides several ginning factories.

Gāwīlgarh Fort.—A deserted hill fortress in the Sātpurās, in the Melghāt *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 22′ N. and 77° 23′ E., on the watershed between the Pūrna and Taptī rivers, at an elevation of 3,595 feet. It is impossible to say when the Gāwīlgarh hill was first fortified, but the name seems to point to its having been at one time a Gaoli stronghold. The fort as it stands is the work of Muhammadan builders, and cannot be assigned to an earlier date than that given by

Firishta, who tells us that it was built by the Bahmani king, Ahmad Shāh Wali, when he halted at Ellichpur from 1425 to 1428. It was improved and thoroughly repaired in 1488 by Fath-ullāh Imād-ul-mulk, as appears from a partially obliterated inscription over the south-western gate. Imād-ul-mulk, who as viceroy of the province under the *roi fainéant*, Mahmūd Shāh Bahmani, had been for some years the actual ruler of Berār, was forced in 1490 by the pretensions of the minister, Amīr Barīd, to proclaim himself independent. He founded the short-lived Imād Shāhī dynasty, whose principal stronghold was Gāwīlgarh. The fort was again improved and repaired in 1577 by the officers of Murtazā Nizām Shāh of Ahmadnagar, owing to a premature report that Akbar was marching on the Deccan. The *Burj-i-Bahrām*, a bastion in the south-west face, contains an inscription recording its construction by Bahrām Khān on this occasion. The date (A.H. 985 = A.D. 1577) is given in a chronogram.

The fort was captured from the officer who held it on behalf of the king of Ahmadnagar by Saiyid Yusuf Khān Mashadī and Shaikh Abul Fazl in 1597–8, less than two years after Berār had been formally ceded to Akbar. In the third Marāthā War the fortress was held by Benī Singh for Raghujī Bhonsla, and was stormed by General Arthur Wellesley on December 15, 1803. It was dismantled in 1853.

The principal building still standing in the fort is the large *masjid*, a handsome stone building in the Pathan style of architecture. The front of the mosque is formed of seven arches, the central arch being slightly higher than the rest; and the covered portion was formerly three arches deep, and had twenty-one domes, but the western wall has fallen away and carried with it a row of domes, so that only fourteen now remain. A low minaret at the north-eastern angle has some handsome stone lattice-work. The gate now known as the Delhi Gate has two *bas-reliefs*, each representing a double-headed eagle holding elephants in its beaks and claws. This bird is the fabulous *gandabherunda*, the emblem of the Hindu empire of Vijayanagar in the Carnatic; and the occurrence of the emblem on a gate of the old military capital of Berār is particularly interesting, for it enables us to assign the gate to Fath-ullāh Imād-ul-mulk, who was, as Firishta tells us, a Brāhman of Vijayanagar captured in boyhood and brought up as a Musalmān. The *gandabherunda* on the Delhi Gate is a proof that he was proud of his origin.

Karasgaon.—Town in the Ellichpur *tāluk* of Amraotī

District, Berār, situated in 21° 20′ N. and 77° 39′ E. Population (1901), 7,456. A fort of fine sandstone, now in ruins, was built here in 1806 by one Vithal Bhāg Deo, a local *tālukdār*.

Kholāpur.—Town in the District and *tāluk* of Amraotī, Berār, situated in 20° 57′ N. and 77° 33′ E., 18 miles west of Amraotī town. Population (1901), 5,373. Its silk trade was once considerable. In 1809 Vithal Bhāg Deo, *Sūbahdār* of Ellichpur, demanded a contribution of Rs. 1,00,000. On payment being refused he captured the town, which was then protected by walls, and it was sacked by his troops. Its rapid decadence is partly attributable to the annual fights which formerly occurred between the Musalmāns and the Rājputs, when the victorious party always took occasion to plunder at least part of the town.

Mangrūl.—Town in the Chāndūr *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 20° 36′ N. and 77° 52′ E. Population (1901), 6,588. The town is distinguished from other towns and villages of the same name by the epithet *Dastgīr*.

Morsī Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 20′ N. and 78° 4′ E. Population (1901), 8,313. The town contains eight ginning factories and two cotton-presses, and a Subordinate Judge and a Munsif hold their courts here.

Ner.—Town in the Morsī *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 15′ N. and 78° 2′ E. Population (1901), 5,408. On a hill near by is a temple of Pinglai Devī, from which the town is generally known as Ner Pinglai, to distinguish it from Ner Parsopant, in the Dārwhā *tāluk* of Yeotmāl District, formerly a more important place, and mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as a *pargana* town.

Paratwāda.—Civil station of Ellichpur town, Amraotī District, Berār, from which it is distant 2 miles. The population in 1901, when the town was garrisoned by a regiment of Native infantry and a battery of the late Hyderābād Contingent artillery, was 10,410; but the troops were removed in 1905. The town is situated on the Sāpan and Bichan rivers. The municipality was created in 1894. The receipts and expenditure from that year till 1901 averaged Rs. 12,000. In 1903–4 the income was Rs. 16,437, chiefly derived from taxes and cesses; and the expenditure was Rs. 17,725, chiefly on conservancy and public works.

Rītpur (or Rīdhpur).—Village in the Morsī *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 14′ N. and 77° 51′ E. Population (1901), 2,412. The village is mentioned in the *Ain-i-*

Akbarī as the head-quarters of a *pargana*. It was a place of importance as the *tankhwāh jāgīr* of Salābat Khāṇ, governor of Ellichpur, at the end of the eighteenth century. At that time it was enclosed by a stone wall, which has almost entirely disappeared, and is said to have contained 12,000 inhabitants, many of whom fled owing to the oppression of Bisan Chand, *tālukdār* in the time of Nāmdār Khān. The principal buildings of interest are Rām Chandra's temple, the Mahānubhāva temple called Rāj Math, and a mosque which has been the subject of much dispute.

Rītpur is the chief seat and place of pilgrimage of the sect vulgarly known as Mānbhau, more correctly Mahānubhāva. Its founder was Kishan Bhat, the spiritual adviser of a Rājā who ruled at Paithan about the middle of the fourteenth century. His followers believe him to have been the demigod Krishna, returned to earth. His doctrines repudiated a multiplicity of gods; and the hatred and contempt which he endured arose partly from his insistence on the monotheistic principle, but chiefly from his repudiation of the caste system. He inculcated the exclusive worship of Krishna as the only incarnation of the Supreme Being, and taught his disciples to eat with none but the initiated, and to break off all former ties of caste and religion. The scriptures of the sect are comprised in the Bhagavadgītā, which all are encouraged to read. The head of the sect is a *mahant*, with whom are associated a number of priests. The sect is divided into two classes, celibates and *gharbārīs* or seculars. Celibacy is regarded as the perfect life, but matrimony is permitted to the weaker brethren. The celibates, both men and women, shave all hair from the head and wear clothes dyed with lampblack. The lower garment is a waistcloth forming a sort of skirt, and is intended to typify devotion to the religious life and consequent indifference to distinctions of sex. The dead are buried in salt, in a sitting posture. Kishan Bhat is said to have obtained a magic cap, by wearing which he was enabled to assume the likeness of Krishna, but the cap was taken from him and burnt. This is probably a Brāhmanical invention, like the story of Kishan Bhat's amour with a Māng woman, which was possibly composed to lend colour to the absurd Brāhmanical derivation of Mānbhau, the vulgar corruption of the name of the sect (*Māng* + *bhau* = 'Māng-brother'). The name Mahānubhāva is borne by the sect with pride, and appears to be derived from *mahā* ('great') and *anubhava* ('intelligence'). It is written Mahānubhāva in all their documents. The Mahānubhāvas

appear to be a declining sect. They numbered 4,111 in Berār in 1881, but in 1901 there were only 2,566.

[In former editions of the *Gazetteer*, the erroneous connexion of the Mānbhau sect with the Māng caste was unfortunately accepted as true. In consequence of some legal proceedings which incidentally arose from this misstatement, the *mahants* of the sect put themselves into communication with Prof. R. G. Bhandarkar of Poona, and also placed at his disposal their sacred books, which, as attested by colophons, go back to the thirteenth century. Prof. Bhandarkar has satisfied himself of the genuineness of these books, which are written in an archaic form of Marāthī. They prove that the Mānbhau sect (or Mahānubhāva, as it is there called) was founded by one Chakradhara, a Karhāda Brāhman, who was contemporary with the Yādava Krishna Rājā (A. D. 1247–60), and is regarded as an incarnation of Dattātreya. It is interesting to find that two of the present *mahants* of the Mānbhau sect are natives of the Punjab, and that they have a *math* at Kābul. As explaining the introduction of the name of Kishan Bhat, mentioned above, Prof. Bhandarkar has further discovered in the Mānbhau books an account of various religious sects formerly flourishing in Mahārāshtra. Among them is one called Matangapatta, confined to Mahārs and Māngs, which is said to have been founded by one Krishnabhatta, about whom is told the legend of an amour with a Māng woman. This sect is still represented in Ahmadnagar District.]

Sendurjana.—Town in the Morsī *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° N. and 78° 6′ E. Population (1901), 6,860. The town has declined in importance since 1872, but a large bazar is held here once a week.

Sirasgaon.—Town in the Ellichpur *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 19′ N. and 77° 44′ E. Population (1901), 6,537. A small bazar is held here once a week.

Talegaon.—Town in the Chāndūr *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 20° 41′ N. and 78° 8′ E. Population (1901), 6,220. It was formerly the head-quarters of the present Chāndūr *tāluk*, but the *tahsīldār's* courthouse was removed to Chāndūr on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. The town is known, to distinguish it from other towns and villages of the same name, as Talegaon-Dashasahasra (*vulgo*, Dashāsar), or 'Talegaon of the ten thousand.' The story goes that the wife of the *jāgīrdār* and the wife of a wealthy merchant entered into competition in the weekly market for a fine pumpkin. The contest between wealth and dignity ended in the vegetable being knocked

down to the merchant's wife for ten thousand rupees. But a more credible legend connects the epithet with the former population of the town.

Walgaon (or Balgaon).—*Jāgīr* town in the District and *tāluk* of Amraotī, Berār, situated in 21° N. and 77° 45′ E. Population (1901), 5,284. A weekly bazar is held here.

Warud.—Town in the Morsī *tāluk* of Amraotī District, Berār, situated in 21° 10′ N. and 78° 7′ E. Population (1901), 7,179. The town, which is known among Musalmāns as Barur, is a local centre of the cotton trade and contains ginning factories.

Yeotmāl District.—District in Berār. *See* WŪN.

Boundaries, configuration, and hill and river systems.

Wūn District (*Wanī* in Marāthī and *Wūn* in Urdū).—Former District in Berār, lying between 19° 45′ and 20° 42′ N. and 77° 37′ and 79° 11′ E., with an area of 3,910 square miles, incorporated since 1905 in the new Yeotmāl District. It was bounded on the north by the Amraotī and Chāndūr *tāluks* of Amraotī District; on the east by the Wardhā; on the south by the Pengangā; and on the west by the Pusad and Mangrūl *tāluks* of Bāsim District.

The area, except the valley of the Bembla river in the north, which lies in the Pāyānghāt, is situated in the Bālāghāt. The greater portion of the valley of the Wardhā on the east is, however, similar in its physical aspects to the Pāyānghāt, the soil, here and in the Bembla valley, consisting of a deep layer of rich black loam. The formation in the Wūn *tāluk*, in the south-eastern corner of the District, is peculiar, and will be noticed later. With these exceptions, the District consists of hilly country formed by offshoots from the Ajanta chain, of which two ranges may here be distinguished. The first crosses the north-western boundary of the District near Lohī, and runs eastward, with an inclination to the south, for about 70 miles, when it turns to the south and runs down to the Pengangā near Kāyar. On this plateau Yeotmāl, the head-quarters of the District, is situated, at an elevation of 1,476 feet. The second range enters the District from the west, near Mangrūl Pīr and to the south of the first, and branches into two ranges, one of which runs north-east towards Dārwhā, while the other takes a south-easterly direction as far as Warur, where it ceases. The highest point in the District, 1,921 feet above sea-level, is on this range. The scenery is less monotonous than in the central valley of Berār. The rocky hills are well wooded, and the river scenery is fine, especially in the rainy season.

The river system consists of the WARDHĀ and PENGANGĀ and their tributaries. These two rivers meet at the south-eastern corner of the District, and the latter drains the greater part of it, the affluents of the Wardhā, except the Bembla, being small and unimportant. The tributaries of the Pengangā are the Arna and Arān, which unite before they meet it, the Wāghārī, the Kūnī, and the Vaidarbha.

The hill ranges already mentioned constitute, so far as Berār is concerned, the eastern limit of the great cap of Deccan trap. On their south-eastern margin, the pre-Cambrian rocks of the Purāna group come to the surface. These consist of shales, often altered to slates, sandstones, frequently changed to quartzites, and limestones, also sometimes altered. They are covered with two small outlying patches of Deccan trap south-east of Kāyar, and with some outliers of Gondwāna beds farther west. Of these old rocks the sandstones, approaching quartzites in structure, form the western front of Mālāgarh hill, the eastern and main part of which is composed of sandstones belonging to the Kamptee division of the Gondwāna system. The same Purāna sandstones form Yānak hill, which rises to 1,005 feet above sea-level. Several bands of conglomerate occur, containing pebbles of hematite, from which the iron formerly made at Yānak was obtained. Shales, slates, and limestones of the Purāna group prevail to the west of the sandstone band, giving some very fine sections on the Pengangā and its tributaries. The Gondwāna rocks belong to the Tālchers, or basement barren beds, covered by coal-bearing Barākars and the still younger Kamptee series. According to Mr. T. W. H. Hughes (*Memoirs, Geological Survey of India*, vol. xiii, p. 98), about 2,100,000 tons of coal are available in the District. Direct evidence of the occurrence of coal has been obtained throughout thirteen miles of country from Wūn to Pāpūr, and for 10 miles from Junād to Chincholī. The most northerly point at which coal has been found is Jhagra on the Wardhā, where a coal seam over 7 feet thick occurs at 50 feet from the surface. South of this point the country is covered with trap, and the continuation of the coal-seams has not been proved; but the Barākars crop out again near Pisgaon on the southern margin of the tongue of trap. At this point coal has been struck at 77 feet from the surface in a seam 27 feet thick, and at other points to the south-east it has been proved in the same way by borings; at Parsoda a 31-foot seam was met at 190 feet, and at Wūn at 300 feet. The existence of thick coal-seams has similarly been proved in the

Geology.

Barākars which crop out near the Wardhā river in the south-eastern part of the District.

Botany. The forest vegetation will be noticed later. In the more open tracts the species that also occur in the forests are found, as well as *Acacia arabica*, tamarinds, mangoes, *pīpals*, banyans, &c. The field weeds are of the species usually found in Central India, and the hills are covered with various grasses.

Fauna. Tigers, leopards, bears, wild hog, antelope, spotted deer, *nīlgai*, 'ravine deer' (gazelle), and grey monkeys are common; the wolf, the wild dog (*Cyon dukhunensis*), the hunting leopard (*Cynaelurus jubatus*), and the four-horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*) less so. The crocodile is found in both the Wardhā and the Pengangā, and otters are not uncommon.

Climate and temperature. The sun is very powerful and the air usually extremely dry during the hot season, which lasts from March till June; but the heat is less intense than in the Pāyānghāt, the highest temperatures recorded at Yeotmāl being usually three or four degrees below the reading at Amraotī, and the nights are generally cool and pleasant throughout the year. In the rainy season the climate is generally temperate, and the cold season is pleasant, especially in the valleys and near streams.

Rainfall. The rainfall is fairly uniform, and is heavier than that experienced in the central valley of Berār. Thus in 1901, which was a normal year, 41 inches were recorded, compared with 29 in Amraotī.

History. The District was never a separate political entity. Before the arrival of the Musalmāns in 1294, it was probably subject at various times to the Gonds and to the Hindu Rājās of Warangal. It formed part of the province of Berār under the Bahmani Sultāns of the Deccan, but was frequently overrun by Gonds. In 1400 it was invaded and occupied by Gonds from Kherla; and in 1425 the whole District, with the fortresses of Māhūr and Kalam, was in the hands of the 'infidels,' probably the same Gonds. In this year Ahmad Shāh Walī, the ninth Sultān of the Bahmani dynasty, attacked and reduced the two fortresses and recovered the District, slaying large numbers of the infidels.

In 1479, in the reign of Muhammad Shāh Lashkarī, the thirteenth ruler of the Bahmani dynasty, the *taraf* or province of Berār was divided into two provinces, Gāwīl and Māhūr, the greater part, if not all, of what was till recently Wūn District being included in the latter, under the governorship of Khudāwand Khān the African, in whose possession it was when Fath-ullah Imād-ul-mulk proclaimed himself Sultān of

Berār in 1490. Soon after this, however, Imād-ul-mulk wrested the province of Māhūr from the successors of Khudāwand Khān. When Berār, in the reign of Akbar, passed under Mughal rule, the greater part of Wūn District was included in the *sarkārs* of Kalam and Māhūr.

The long and wasting wars carried on by Aurangzeb gave rise to fiscal exactions from which the whole of Berār suffered; and the reverses of the emperor afforded to Rājā Bakht Buland of Deogarh an opportunity of ravaging the rich lowlands on both sides of the Wardhā. Towards the end of the seventeenth century the Marāthās swarmed into the country; and though Asaf Jāh Nizām-ul-mulk strengthened his hold in 1724, all real power in Wūn District soon passed into the hands of the Bhonsla family. The District was the scene of the early rivalry between Raghujī Bhonsla, the founder of the Nāgpur line, and his kinsman Kānhojī. It was at Bhām, on the top of a small plateau overlooking the Arān river, that Raghujī had an intimation of the bright future that lay before him; and it was from Bhām that by a secret and solitary flight to Deogarh he escaped assasination at the hands of Kānhojī and his son Rāyaljī. The contest with Kānhojī ended in 1734, when Raghujī captured his rival at a small village to the south of Wūn town. Eleven years later Raghujī, then firmly seated at Nāgpur, wrested the Wūn *pargana* from Chānda, to which power it had fallen during the confusion of the preceding years, and afterwards annexed Chānda itself. The struggles in which the Nāgpur Rājā, the Nizām, and the Peshwā were engaged during the rest of the eighteenth century did not directly affect Wūn District; but on April 2, 1818, the Peshwā, when retreating towards Chānda to effect a junction with Appa Sāhib, was pursued by a small British force under Colonel Adams, who overtook him at the little village of Siwni in the Kelāpur *tāluk*, and signally defeated him. During all these disorders the fertile lowlands along the Wardhā suffered severely from the depredations of the Pindāris. In 1848 the District was disturbed by a man who claimed to be Appa Sāhib, the former Rājā of Nāgpur. The pretender, who had a following of about 4,000, was defeated and captured in 1849. In 1853 this area was 'assigned' by the Nizām, with the rest of Berār, to the East India Company, and at first was included in the East Berār District, the head-quarters of which were at Amraotī. In 1864 the District was formed by separation from the East Berār District, and was at first styled the South-east Berār District—a clumsy title which soon gave way to the late designation.

Archaeology.

The archaeological remains are neither numerous nor interesting. No vestige of the old fort at Kalam now remains, but from the numerous ruins of stone dwelling-houses it may be surmised that it was dismantled for the sake of its materials. There are Hemādpanti temples at Yeotmāl and Lohāra in the Yeotmāl *tāluk*, and at Lādkhed and Mahāgaon in the Dārwhā *tāluk*. At Kelāpur and one or two other villages in the south of the District small stone forts are found, but whether they were built by the Gonds or by the inhabitants as a protection against the Gonds is uncertain. At Bhām the ruins of large stone buildings erected by Raghujī Bhonsla are still to be seen.

The people.

The number of towns and villages is 1,209. The population at each of the last four enumerations was: (1867) 323,689, (1881) 392,102, (1891) 471,613, and (1901) 466,929. The decline in 1901 was due to a succession of very unhealthy years during the decade and to the famine of 1899–1900, which, however, was less severe in Wūn than in any other District of Berār. It was divided into the four *tāluks* of YEOTMĀL, DĀRWHĀ, KELĀPUR, and WŪN. The head-quarters of these (except of Kelāpur, which are at Pāndharkawada) are at the places from which each is named. The towns are YEOTMĀL, which is a municipality, DĀRWHĀ, DIGRAS, and WŪN.

The following table gives, for each *tāluk*, particulars of area, towns and villages, and population in 1901:—

Tāluk.	Area in square miles.	Number of Towns.	Number of Villages.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
Yeotmāl .	908	1	293	124,031	137	— ·3	4,929
Dārwhā .	1,062	2	327	156,679	148	+ 0·6	4,553
Kelāpur .	1,080	...	310	103,657	96	— 2·1	2,338
Wūn . .	860	1	275	82,562	96	— 2·4	1,893
District total	3,910	4	1,205	466,929	119	— 1·0	13,713

Nearly 79 per cent. of the people are Hindus. The density of the population, 119 persons per square mile, is less in Wūn than in any other District of Berār, except Ellichpur. This is due to the large area of forest and uncultivable land, and to the comparative poverty of the soil. The increase in the population in 1881 and 1891 was due largely to the influx of immigrants anxious to take up land. The language of the great majority of the population here, as elsewhere in Berār, is Marāthī. The Musalmāns, who number 22,000, speak a

corrupt dialect of Urdū, which is generally understood by all. Gondī, under which term is included the distinct but allied language Kolāmī, is spoken by 55,500, and Banjārī or Labhānī by 26,000. More than 23,000, living principally in the Pengangā valley, speak Telugu.

The Kunbīs, as in all other Districts of Berār, largely exceed other castes, and number 105,000, the Mahārs coming second with 46,000. The Gonds number 45,000, and the Kolāms and Pardhāns, allied tribes, 15,000 and 12,000. The Banjārās (26,000), the Telis (15,000), and the Gaolīs (13,000) are more numerous than in any other District of Berār. Musalmāns number 22,000, Mālīs 20,000, Dhangars 9,000, and Brāhmans, who are less numerous in Wūn than in any other District, 6,500. The percentage (79) of the population living by the land is higher in Wūn than in other Districts of the province. The proportion which the regular agricultural castes bear to other tribes is, as has been seen, fairly high. But in addition to these the Gond tribes, now no longer able to pursue at will their old occupation of hunting, have been driven to the land; and though they are as yet far from being satisfactory cultivators, and are, perhaps, from their intemperance and easy-going nature among the worst labourers in Berār, they are unable to find more congenial occupations. More than 10 per cent. of the population are supported by industries. Castes and occupations.

There is only one Christian mission in the District, the American Free Methodist Mission, which did good work in the famine of 1899–1900. Of the 205 Christians enumerated in 1901, 179 were natives, and of these the majority were Methodist. Christian missions.

The deep black loam which characterizes the lowlands of Berār is found in the Bembla valley on the north of the District and in the Wardhā valley on the east. On the plateaux the soil is generally of poorer quality; and though the black loam is of frequent occurrence, it nowhere attains the depth of the layer in the valleys. It alternates with red and light-coloured soils considerably inferior to it in quality; and both the black and the red soils are frequently covered with stones, the presence of which in the lighter soils is regarded by the cultivator as an advantage, for it is believed that they help to retain moisture. The soil in the valleys of the smaller rivers is deeper and more fertile than on the plateaux, and a great portion of the Wūn *tāluk* is covered with a sandy soil, the attritus of the sandstone formation found there. This soil, though not infertile, is decidedly inferior to the loam. The loam of the plateaux is General agricultural conditions.

frequently combined with calcareous soil, which impairs its fertility. The success of the harvests, both *kharīf* and *rabi*, depends upon the south-west monsoon.

Chief agricultural statistics and principal crops.

The tenures are principally *ryotwāri*; but *ijāra*, *jāgīr*, and *pālampat* villages cover 1,283 square miles out of 3,921. The area of land held on these tenures is very much greater, both actually and proportionately, than in any other District of Berār. The *ijāra* system was introduced after the Assignment, with a view to bringing waste land rapidly under cultivation. No such device was found necessary in the plains, where the soil was richer and was not called upon to support a local class of unsatisfactory cultivators.

The following table gives the chief agricultural statistics in 1903–4, in square miles:—

Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Cultivable waste.	Forest.
3,921	2,679	20	209	799

The staple food-grain is *jowār*, or great millet, the area under which was 1,215 square miles. The area under cotton, the most profitable crop in Berār, was 692 square miles. Pulses and oilseeds, which are more extensively cultivated in Wūn than in other Districts, covered 283 and 173 square miles; and wheat 75.

Improvements in agricultural practice.

Although the cultivated area has trebled during the last thirty years, 209 square miles, or more than 7 per cent. of the cultivable land in the District, still remain unoccupied. The expedient of leasing integral villages has been abandoned, and the unoccupied land is being taken up by degrees. It cannot be said that any improvement has been made in agricultural practice. On the contrary, the cultivator, here as elsewhere in Berār, has given up the fine long-stapled variety of cotton for which the province was formerly noted in favour of a coarser variety of short staple, which has the merit of being more prolific, and of requiring less attention than the superior variety. Cultivators do not avail themselves freely of loans from Government.

Cattle, &c.

The breed of cattle is, owing partly to the situation of the District and partly to local conditions, more mixed, than in other parts of Berār. The origin of the breed is, probably, in the main, a cross between the Umarda, or smaller variety of the local breed, and the Arvī breed of the Central Provinces; but this cross is again much varied by cattle imported from other

parts of the Central Provinces and from the Hyderābād State, which are brought to the weekly cattle market at Digras, the largest in the province, and the annual cattle fair at Wūn town. The buffaloes are chiefly of the Nāgpuri and Dakhanī breeds. The ponies bred locally are animals of little value; and the local breeds of sheep and goats, especially the former, are very poor.

Irrigation.

The area of irrigated land in 1903–4 was rather less than 20 square miles, nearly all of which was watered from wells and devoted principally to garden crops. The area irrigated from streams and tanks, though larger than in any other District in Berār, was only 211 acres.

Forests.

Forests cover 799 square miles, a larger area than in any other District of Berār, except Ellichpur. They are divided into three classes, according as they are reserved for timber and fuel, for the supply of fodder, or for pasture land. The areas of the three classes are 230, 21, and 548 square miles. Timber trees in forest lands of the second and third classes, which produce various grasses, are few and unimportant. In forests of the first class the principal species are, on the plateaux, *Boswellia*, *Adina*, *Bridelia*, *Terminalia*, &c.; the slopes of the hills and the lower undulating ground have teak, *Ougeinia*, *Pterocarpus Marsupium*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, &c.; and in the lower parts of the ravines are bamboos (*Dendrocalamus strictus*). The forest revenue amounts to rather more than a lakh annually, half of which is represented by grazing dues and the sum realized by the sale of fodder. Timber and fuel together bring in little more than a third of the amount realized from these sources.

Minerals.

The mineral resources, which consist of coal and iron, have already been described under Geology. Neither is yet worked; and though there is little doubt that coal-mines will yield a handsome profit, the same cannot be said of iron, for the capabilities of the District in this respect have yet to be explored. The fact that it would be possible to smelt on the spot any iron that may be discovered should encourage enterprise. Some soapstone is found near Wūn, but the product is of no economic importance.

Arts and manufactures.

Arts and manufactures in Wūn District, as elsewhere in Berār, are unimportant. The practice of ginning cotton by hand is dying out; and the chief manufactures consist of ordinary country cotton cloth, *khādīs*, *sārīs*, and turbans, woven in hand-looms. The printing of cotton cloth in fast colours is a local industry in the town of Wūn. The principal industry is the

preparation of cotton for the market, and the District contains 16 ginning factories and 6 cotton-presses, all worked by steam.

Commerce. The chief exports are raw cotton, oilseeds, and cereals and pulses; and the chief imports are cereals and pulses, salt, and sugar. Imports are mainly from neighbouring Districts, Bombay, and the Central Provinces; and the exports are principally to Bombay by rail, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway being reached by the Yeotmāl-Dhāmangaon road. From the south-east of the District exports are carried to the Wardhā Coal State Railway. Yeotmāl is the chief centre of the cotton trade, and also of the general trade of the District. Wūn, Dārwhā, and Digras are also important centres of general trade, large numbers of cattle being brought to the weekly cattle market at the last-named town. The trade is chiefly in the hands of Mārwāris and Vānīs. Most of the internal traffic is effected through the agency of the weekly markets held at the head villages of the old *parganas*. These are managed by the local boards.

Roads. There is no railway in the District. The total length of metalled roads is 125 miles, and of unmetalled roads 18 miles, the former being under the charge of the Public Works department, and the latter under the District board. The principal roads are those from Yeotmāl to Dhāmangaon, Dārwhā, and Wūn town.

Famine. The District does not differ from the rest of Berār in respect of its liability to famine, and it has suffered from all the famines that have visited the Province. It was affected less severely than other Districts by the scarcity which prevailed in 1896–7 and by the famine of 1899–1900; but its partial escape from these calamities was due to purely fortuitous circumstances, not to any special advantages of soil or climate. At the height of the last famine, in June, 1900, 18,033 persons were on relief works, and 5,868 more were in receipt of gratuitous relief; and it is calculated that 750,000 cattle died, including those brought into the District from other parts of Berār and the Central Provinces for pasture, which was available in Wūn District after it had failed elsewhere. The statistics of mortality among cattle are merely an estimate, and cannot be accepted as accurate; but the mortality was unquestionably greater than elsewhere in the province.

District staff. There are no subdivisions in Wūn. A *tahsīldār* resides at the head-quarters of each of the four *tāluks*[1]. The superior staff of the District consists of the usual officers.

Civil and criminal justice. For judicial purposes, Wūn now forms part of the Civil and Sessions District of East Berār, and has an Additional District

[1] The new District of Yeotmāl, constituted in 1905, contains five *tāluks*.

Judge, a Subordinate Judge, and two Munsifs. Murders are rare; but dacoity and robbery, though much less frequent than formerly, are still somewhat more common than in other Districts. Crime of this nature is principally committed by Banjārās and Kolāms. The former tribe is gradually being weaned from its criminal propensities, which were the natural result of the failure of its hereditary means of subsistence, viz. pack carriage, the demand for which disappeared as means of communication were improved; and there is every reason to hope that the tribe will, by degrees, accept the new condition of things and adopt agriculture—for the extension of which there is still room—as its means of livelihood. The Kolāms are the most backward tribe in the province, and their regeneration is to be looked for in the advance of education and the rigorous administration of the law, for they are not a tribe of hereditary criminals: they are only slow to learn that lawlessness is not profitable in the long run.

Land revenue.

The Mughal land revenue demand in the *parganas* which formed Wūn District was, according to the *Ain-i-Akbarī*, 4·8 lakhs. At the time of the Assignment in 1853 it had fallen to Rs. 70,000, or little more than one-seventh of the demand in Akbar's reign. The wars, famines, and maladministration of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and early part of the nineteenth century were the principal cause of this enormous decrease in production. The Gonds of Chānda were never thoroughly subdued by the Mughals; and their depredations, combined with the exactions of the power which was nominally supreme, must have gone far towards exhausting the resources of the District. By the time that all the authority which the Mughal emperors of Delhi ever exercised in Berār had in fact passed into the hands of their great lieutenant in the Deccan, the Bhonslas had established their power in Wūn District, and it may be presumed that they contributed but little to the coffers of the Nizām. They rendered the District one service by finally extinguishing Gond rule. When Berār fell into the hands of the revenue farmers, the cultivators fled from their oppression into British territory. Since the Assignment the recovery has been more gradual than in other Districts, for, except in a few favoured tracts, the soil is not such as to attract cultivators who have obtained holdings elsewhere. It was this consideration which induced the Administration to lease land, under rules modified from time to time, not by fields, but by integral villages, and thus to introduce an unaccustomed tenure into the province.

The first regular survey and settlement since the Assignment took place between the years 1873 and 1876, and is still in force except in the Dārwhā *tāluk*, where the settlement was revised in 1898, the new rates of assessment being brought into force in 1902–3. Under the original settlement the average rate per acre was R. 0–7–6, with a maximum of Rs. 1–8 and a minimum of R. 0–1–6. The average assessment per acre in 'wet' lands was Rs. 3. The new assessments in the Dārwhā *tāluk* work out to a maximum of Rs. 1–12, a minimum of R. 0–3, and an average of R. 0–15–6 per acre, the whole demand being little more than 15 per cent. in excess of the old revenue. Land irrigated from tanks and streams is assessed at a maximum combined land and water rate of Rs. 8 per acre; that irrigated from wells sunk before the original settlement is assessed at the maximum rate for 'dry' land in the same neighbourhood; and that irrigated from wells made later is treated in all respects as 'dry' land. Rice land is assessed at a maximum rate of Rs. 6 per acre.

Collections on account of land revenue and revenue from all sources are shown in the following table, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-1.	1890-1.	1900-1.	1903-4.
Land revenue . .	5,12	5,87	6,58	7,46
Total revenue . .	7,55	10,65	11,26	12,88

Local boards.

Outside the municipality of YEOTMĀL, local affairs are managed by the District board and the four *tāluk* boards subordinate to it. The expenditure in 1903–4 was Rs. 75,000, of which rather more than a sixth was spent on education, and rather more than a third on public works. The principal sources of income were rates and assessed taxes, and a grant from Provincial revenues.

Police and jails.

The District Superintendent has general control over the police under the Deputy-Commissioner. The District contained 23 police stations, including town police stations, and 8 outposts. The force in 1903–4 numbered 417 policemen and 9 rural policemen, under 3 inspectors. The only jail is at Yeotmāl, which contained in 1903–4 a daily average of 41 prisoners.

Education.

Wūn stands last among the six Districts of Berār in the literacy of its population, of whom 2·9 per cent. (5·6 males and 0·1 females) could read and write in 1901. The position of the District in this respect is due to the comparatively large

proportion of backward tribes—Banjārās, Gonds, Kolāms, and Pardhāns—which it contains. Education is most advanced in the Yeotmāl and Dārwhā *tāluks*, and least so in Kelāpur. In 1903-4 the District contained 76 public, 49 aided, and 10 unaided schools, with a total of 6,102 pupils, of whom 4,647 attended public schools, 233 were girls, and 156 were in secondary schools.

The two secondary schools were managed by the Educational department, and of the primary schools 74 were managed by the District board and 54 were aided from public funds. The great majority of the pupils under instruction in the District were only in primary classes, and no girls had passed beyond that stage. Of the male population of school-going age, 7·6 per cent. were in the primary stage of instruction, and of the female population of the same age, 0·27 per cent. Among Musalmāns more than 6 per cent. are able to read and write. The expenditure on education in 1903-4 was Rs. 41,000, of which Rs. 1,429 was derived from fees.

Hospitals and dispensaries.

The District possesses one hospital and six dispensaries, with accommodation for 26 in-patients. In 1903 the number of cases treated was 34,900, of whom 314 were in-patients, and 834 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 10,439, of which the greater part was met from Provincial revenues.

Vaccination.

In regard to vaccination the District holds the first place in the province. In 1902-3 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 39·89 per 1,000, compared with 36·58, the mean for the province. Vaccination is compulsory only in the municipality of Yeotmāl.

District redistribution.

In August, 1905, when the six Districts of Berār were reconstituted, this District received the designation of Yeotmāl, and the Pusad *tāluk* of Bāsim, which ceased to exist as a separate District, was incorporated in it. The present area of Yeotmāl District is 5,183 square miles, and the population of that area in 1901 was 575,957.

[*Tāluk Settlement Reports:* R. R. Beynon, *Yeotmāl* (1874), *Wūn* (1875); F. W. Francis, *Dārwhā* (1901).]

Dārwhā Tāluk.—*Tāluk* of Yeotmāl District (formerly known as Wūn), Berār, lying between 19° 52′ and 20° 36′ N. and 77° 34′ and 78° 11′ E., with an area of 1,062 square miles. The population rose from 156,580 in 1891 to 156,679 in 1901, the density in the latter year being 148 persons per square mile, the highest in the District. The *tāluk* contains 327 villages and 2 towns, DĀRWHĀ (population, 5,168), the head-quarters,

and DIGRAS (6,034). The demand for land revenue in 1903-4 was Rs. 2,91,000, and for cesses Rs. 21,000. The *tāluk* lies in the Bālāghāt, or southern plateau of Berār, but is well watered by streams flowing southward to the Pengangā, which bounds it on the south; and it is generally more fertile than other *tāluks* lying in this tract.

Kelāpur.—*Tāluk* of Yeotmāl District (formerly known as Wūn), Berār, lying between 19° 50′ and 20° 29′ N. and 78° 2′ and 78° 51′ E., with an area of 1,080 square miles. The population fell from 105,926 in 1891 to 103,657 in 1901, the density being 96 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 310 villages, but no town. The head-quarters are at Pāndharkawada (population, 1,992), near the small village of Kelāpur, from which the *tāluk* takes its name. The *tāluk* contains a larger proportion of Gonds than any other in Berār. It marched with, and probably at times formed part of, the Gond kingdom of Chānda. The demand for land revenue in 1903-4 was Rs. 1,35,000, and for cesses Rs. 8,000. The *tāluk* lies in the Bālāghāt or southern plateau of Berār, but possesses fertile tracts in the valleys of the Wardhā and Pengangā rivers, which bound it on the north and south.

Pusad Tāluk.—*Tāluk* of Yeotmāl District, Berār, lying between 19° 25′ and 20° 2′ N. and 77° 18′ and 78° 11′ E., with an area of 1,273 square miles. The population fell from 138,485 in 1891 to 109,028 in 1901; and the density, 86 persons per square mile, is the lowest in the District, and lower than that in any other *tāluk* of Berār, save the Melghāt. The *tāluk* contains 298 villages and only one town, PUSAD (population, 6,742), the head-quarters. The demand for land revenue in 1903-4 was Rs. 2,00,000, and for cesses Rs. 15,000. Pusad, which is the southernmost *tāluk* of Berār, lies in the large bend of the Pengangā river, which bounds it on three sides, occurring about half-way between its source and its junction with the Wardhā. The south-eastern portion of the *tāluk*, in an angle formed by the bend of the river, consists of the Kinwat Forest Reserve. Until August, 1905, the *tāluk* formed part of BĀSIM DISTRICT, which was broken up on the reconstitution of Berār, Pusad being transferred to Yeotmāl, until then known as Wūn District.

Wūn Tāluk.—*Tāluk* of Yeotmāl District, Berār, lying between 19° 47′ and 20° 17′ N. and 78° 37′ and 79° 11′ E., with an area of 860 square miles. The population fell from 84,678 in 1891 to 82,562 in 1901, the density being 96 persons per square mile, the same as in the Kelāpur *tāluk*. The *tāluk*

contains 275 villages and only one town, Wūn (population, 6,109), the head-quarters. The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 1,41,000, and for cesses Rs. 9,000. Until August, 1905, Wūn gave its name to the District in which it is situated, though the town was never the head-quarters. The *tāluk* lies in the south-eastern corner of Berār, in the angle formed by the confluence of the Wardhā and Pengangā rivers, which bound it on the north-east and the south. The soil is generally fertile, but in the north-east it is more sandy than usual in Berār. Coal exists in a considerable portion of the area.

Yeotmāl Tāluk.—Head-quarters *tāluk* of Yeotmāl District (formerly known as Wūn), Berār, lying between 20° 9′ and 20° 41′ N. and 78° and 78° 34′ E., with an area of 908 square miles. The population fell from 124,429 in 1891 to 124,031 in 1901, the density being 136 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 293 villages and only one town, Yeotmāl (population, 10,545), the head-quarters. The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 1,75,000, and for cesses Rs. 3,000. The *tāluk* lies chiefly in the Bālāghāt or southern plateau of Berār; but a broad belt of land on the north lies in the central valley, and on the north-east the valley of the Wardhā, which bounds the *tāluk* on that side, resembles in its characteristics the fertile land of the Pāyānghāt.

Dārwhā Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Yeotmāl District, Berār, situated in 20° 19′ N. and 77° 49′ E. Population (1901), 5,168. It was formerly the residence of Sābhājī Muslājī Bhonsla. A metalled road runs to Yeotmāl, 24 miles distant. The town contains a *tahsīl* courthouse and schools.

Digras.—Town in the Dārwhā *tāluk* of Yeotmāl District, Berār, situated in 20° 6′ N. and 77° 46′ E. Population (1901), 6,034. The weekly cattle-market held here is the largest in the province.

Kalam.—Village in the District and *tāluk* of Yeotmāl, Berār, situated in 20° 27′ N. and 78° 22′ E. Population (1901), 3,595. Kalam was formerly an important fortress; and in 1425 the Bahmani king, Ahmad Shāh Walī, captured it from the 'infidels,' probably Gonds of Chānda or Kherla, into whose hands it had fallen. Kalam and Māhūr were the most important fortresses in the south-eastern corner of Berār at that time. In the *Ain-i-Akbarī* Kalam is mentioned as the head-quarters of a *sarkār* or revenue district. It has a remarkable underground temple dedicated to Chintāman.

Pusad Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Yeotmāl District, Berār, situated in 19° 55′ N. and 77° 38′ E., on the Pūs river, from which it takes its name. Population (1901), 6,742. Pusad is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as a *pargana* town. It contains two old Hemādpanti temples, and the ruins of some others; also the remains of an irrigation tank, now silted up.

Wūn Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Yeotmāl District, Berār, situated in 20° 3′ N. and 79° E. Population (1901), 6,109. In Marāthī the town is known as Wanī, Wūn being the name used by Musalmāns. A fair, at which cattle, carts, and hardware are sold, is held here annually about the time of the Holī festival, in March. At Mandār, a small village south of Wūn, Raghujī Bhonsla in 1734 captured his kinsman Kānhojī, who had disregarded the orders of the Rājā of Sātāra to return to court. In the neighbourhood of the town are several tanks.

Yeotmāl Town.—Head-quarters of the District and *tāluk* of the same name in Berār, situated in 20° 24′ N. and 78° 11′ E., at an elevation of 1,476 feet. Population (1901), 10,545. The original name of the place was Yewata, and the termination is a corruption of *mahall* ('*pargana* town'). In the *Ain-i-Akbarī* the *pargana* is styled Yot-Lohāra, Lohāra being an old village 3 miles to the west of Yeotmāl. There is a good specimen of a Hemādpanti temple at Yeotmāl. Municipal government was first introduced in 1869, but had to be abandoned as the place could not support it. It was again introduced in 1894, with a proportion of elected members, but the elective system was subsequently given up as unsuitable to the conditions. The income and expenditure of the municipality from 1894 to 1901 averaged Rs. 11,000. In 1903-4 the income was Rs. 16,517, principally derived from taxes and cesses; and the expenditure was Rs. 17,226, the principal heads being conservancy and education. The place was a village of no importance until it was selected for its position as the head-quarters of Wūn District, now Yeotmāl District. Since that time its population and trade have increased rapidly. It is connected with Dhāmangaon railway station, 29 miles distant, by a metalled road, and contains 10 ginning factories and 7 cotton-presses.

Boundaries, configuration, and hill and river systems.

Akola District.—District in Berār, lying between 20° 17′ and 21° 16′ N. and 76° 24′ and 77° 27′ E., with an area of nearly 2,678 square miles. In 1905 the District was altered considerably, and a brief description of the new area will be

found at the end of this article, which deals with the District before the change. It is bounded on the north by the Melghāt hills; on the east by the Daryāpur and Murtazāpur *tāluks*; on the south by the Mangrūl, Bāsim, and Mehkar *tāluks*; and on the west by the Chikhlī and Malkāpur *tāluks* and the Nimār District of the Central Provinces. The District is flat, and the scenery generally uninteresting; but a small strip of the Melghāt hill country, containing the fort of Narnāla (3,161 feet), is included in the District, and in the south, in the neighbourhood of Pātūr, the ground begins to rise towards the Bālāghāt. The river system consists of the Pūrna, which traverses it from east to west, with its affluents from the Melghāt hills on the north and the Bālāghāt on the south, described in the account of BERĀR. The surface soil is nearly everywhere a rich black loam, sometimes of great depth. Where this does not exist, *murum* and trap are found, with a shallow upper crust of inferior light soil; but sometimes the underlying *murum* is covered with a not unproductive reddish soil, the depth of which varies.

Geology, botany, and fauna.

The District, with the exception of the very small tract of hilly country on the north, is situated entirely in the central valley of Berār, the Pāyānghāt, the geology and botany of which are described generally in the article on BERĀR. The most common wild animals are antelope, wild hog, *nīlgai*, and leopards. Tigers are not often found now, but wild dogs and wolves are occasionally seen.

Climate and temperature.

The climate is also described in the article on BERĀR, Akola being one of the two stations for which statistics of rainfall and temperature are given. For three months of the year intense heat prevails. When the rains break, in June, there is a marked fall in temperature; but the combination of moisture and heat is somewhat enervating. The months of November, December, and January are usually cool and pleasant. The redeeming feature of the hot season is the coolness of the nights. The fort of Narnāla in the Melghāt hills might form a suitable site for a small sanitarium. The climate is similar to that of Chikalda, but space is more limited; for instead of the rolling plateau, which is a feature of Chikalda scenery, Narnāla has only narrow hill-tops.

Rainfall.

The annual rainfall for the last twenty-five years averaged 34 inches. The District suffers much in years of drought, which have fortunately not been frequent, the mortality among cattle being very great at such periods.

History.

As Akola has never been a separate political entity, its history consists chiefly of important events which have happened

within its limits, such as the battles of ARGAON ar
and the two sieges of NARNĀLA. In the reign o
whole of the present District was included in th
Narnāla, Akola itself being a *pargana* town.

Before the Assignment, in 1853, the exactions o
of the revenue and of the Nizām's officials led
outbreaks. In 1841 Mogal Rao planted the
Bhonslas on the walls of Jāmod in the north of
In 1844 a serious religious disturbance took pla
which was only checked by the prompt action
officer from Ellichpur. More dangerous outbreak
1849 under a man who pretended to be Appa Sā
to be put down by military force.

At the Assignment Berār was divided into two
West and East Berār, the head-quarters of wh
Akola and Amraotī. In 1864 the District of
Berār, subsequently called Mehkar, and later Buld
was separated from Akola; and in 1875 Bāsim
previously been an independent subdivision, was
District. From 1867 to 1872 Berār was divided
revenue Divisions of East and West Berār, and
period Akola was the head-quarters of the latter.

Archaeology. The most interesting antiquities in the District
at Narnāla and Bālāpur; the *chhatrī* or pavilion
place; two *vihāras* or cells cut in a rocky hill at
various Hemādpanti temples, the best of which
TĀKLI.

The people. The number of towns and villages in the Di
The population at each of the last four enumeratio
(1867) 481,050, (1881) 593,185, (1891) 574,964
582,540. This was the only District of Berār
population decreased during the decade endin
increased during that ending 1901. These char
have been caused by emigration and immigrat
natural conditions prevailing are similar to those
the province, where the movement of the populati
contrary direction. The District was divided
tāluks of AKOLA, AKOT, BĀLĀPUR, KHĀMGAON, a
with their head-quarters at the towns from which ea
The chief towns are the municipalities of AKOLA,
AKOT, and SHEGAON.

The table on the next page gives, for each *tālu*
tics of area, population, &c., according to the Cens
The District stands second in Berār as regards

and density of population. The vernacular of the people is Marāthī, but the Musalmāns speak Urdū.

Castes and occupations.

As in every other District of Berār, the Kunbīs largely outnumber every other caste. They are here more numerous than elsewhere, numbering 187,000, or 32 per cent. of the total. The Mahārs with 71,000 come second in number, the Mālīs (58,000) third, and the Musalmāns (54,000) fourth. Brāhmans number 19,000. Other castes which appear in strength are Dhangars and Telis. Agriculture supports 71 per cent. and industries 14 per cent. of the population.

Tāluk.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Akola . .	739	2	287	150,222	203	+ 8.8	8,430
Akot . .	517	2	228	137,683	266	− 0.2	8,443
Bālāpur .	569	3	162	104,495	184	+ 2.7	3,962
Jalgaon .	410	1	155	87,192	212	− 10.7	3,983
Khāmgaon .	443	2	134	102,948	232	+ 3.1	3,584
District total	2,678	10	966	582,540	219	+ 1.3	28,402

Christian missions.

There are two Protestant missions in the District, the Alliance Mission and the Peniel Mission. The former has established an industrial school which is doing good work. Of the 618 Christians enumerated in 1901, 487 were natives, about half being Presbyterians.

General agricultural conditions.

The soil is a rich black loam everywhere, except in the extreme north and south, where the District borders on the Melghāt and Bālāghāt. In the north and south it is, as already described, of varying quality, but in all cases very much poorer than the loam. Agricultural conditions generally are described in the article on BERĀR, and no local peculiarities are to be noticed.

Chief agricultural statistics and principal crops.

With the exception of 42 *jāgīr* villages, Akola is entirely *ryotwāri*. The chief agricultural statistics for 1903–4 are shown below, in square miles:—

Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Cultivable waste.	Forest.
2,967	2,277¾	11	5¾	241

The staple food-grain is *jowār*, or great millet, the area under which was 779 square miles, or 37 per cent. of the net area

cropped. The principal crop is cotton, which than half of the net area cropped. The area 90 square miles, and the only other product w wheat (41 square miles).

Improvements in agricultural practice.

Very little unoccupied land has been availab for many years. Akola is one of the most fer province, and all available land was taken u Assignment. But little advance has been mad practice. The fine long-stapled cotton, for w formerly well-known, has been gradually repla variety of short staple, less valuable but more p cultivators take hardly any advantage of the La Loans Act.

Cattle, &c.

The Khāmgaon, or larger variety of Berāri c cipal breed in the Khāmgaon, Bālāpur, Jalga the Akot *tāluks*, the Umarda, or smaller vari elsewhere in the District. Owing to loss recent famines importation has been exten of the Nimāri, Sholāpuri, Hoshangābādi, Māl Surati breeds are not uncommon. Buffaloes a Nāgpuri strain; but since the famine of 189 locally known as Mālwi, having smaller heads the native stock, have been imported from Cen ponies bred locally are weedy and inferior, and goats are also poor. Goats of the Gujarāti b good milch animals, are found in the towns.

Irrigation.

Only 11 square miles of land were irrigated i was chiefly garden land, supplied from wells; b of it, in all *tāluks* except Akola, was irrigated b tanks and streams.

Forests.

Forests, in so rich an agricultural Distri unimportant; and the fact was recently recog Akola Forest division was abolished as a sepa united to the Buldāna division, the two Distri forest charge under an officer with head-quart Forests reserved for the production of timb distributed between three tracts. On the n where the soil becomes poorer in the submont Melghāt and the Bālāghāt, there are forests (*Boswellia thurifera*), *khair* (*Acacia Catechu*), *ao Emblica*), and, more sparingly, teak (*Tectona gr* with other species. In the Pūrna valley are a or groves of *Acacia arabica*, interspersed o *hiwar* (*Acacia leucophloea*) and two or three

Other forests or *ramnas* cover 13 square miles, and grazing lands 112 square miles.

Minerals. Brine-wells in the Pūrna valley formerly provided inferior salt for local consumption, and a trifling revenue was realized from the product; but after the opening of the railway the salt so obtained could not compete with that imported from Bombay, and the industry died a natural death.

Arts and manufactures. Arts and manufactures are unimportant. Cotton carpets are woven at Akot and Bālāpur, but are being ousted by imported articles of superior quality. The principal industry is the preparation of cotton for the market, and the District contains 42 ginning factories and 18 cotton-presses, all worked by steam.

Commerce. The trade, though important, may be very briefly described. It consists chiefly of the export of raw cotton by rail to Bombay, the principal centres of the trade being Akola, Akot, Khāmgaon, Shegaon, Jalgaon, and Bālāpur. Cotton is ginned in steam factories at all these places, and is pressed in all of them except Bālāpur. From Akot and Jalgaon cotton is sent by road to Shegaon and Jalam on the railway. The imports consist principally of grain and pulse, coal and coke, salt, and sugar.

Railways. The Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway runs from east to west, its length in the District being about 50 miles. From Jalam a branch railway, 8 miles in length, constructed by the state but managed by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, runs to Khāmgaon.

Roads. The length of metalled roads is 84 miles, and of unmetalled roads 127 miles; 66 miles of metalled and 81 of unmetalled roads are maintained by the Public Works department, and the rest by the District board. The chief roads are that from Akola town towards Bāsim, the Akola-Akot road, and that from Khāmgaon towards Chikhlī.

Famine. Akola cannot be differentiated from the rest of Berār in respect of its liability to famine. As there is no irrigation worth mentioning, it follows that the crops of each year are wholly dependent on the rainfall; but, though deficient rainfall occasionally causes some distress, famine is fortunately of rare occurrence. The District suffered from famine, with great mortality among cattle, in 1862, and again in 1896–7, and was very severely affected by the famine of 1899–1900. In June, 1900, 89,880 persons were on relief works and 22,642 in receipt of gratuitous relief; and it is estimated that about half the cattle in the District died during the famine.

The *tāluks* have already been mentioned[1]. The Khāmgaon

[1] The District, as reconstituted in 1905, contains six *tāluks*.

District subdivisions and staff.

and Jalgaon *tāluks* constitute the Khāmgaon subdivision under an Assistant Commissioner, who holds his court at Khāmgaon; but this subdivision has, since 1905, formed part of Buldāna District. There is a *tahsīldār* at the head-quarters of each *tāluk*. The superior staff of the District consists of the usual officers, except that, as has already been mentioned, Akola shares a Forest officer with Buldāna.

Civil and criminal justice.

For judicial purposes Akola and Buldāna now form the Civil and Sessions District of West Berār. A District and Sessions Judge has his head-quarters at Akola, and is assisted by Subordinate Judges and Munsifs at Akola and Bāsim. Dacoities, house-breaking, and cattle thefts fluctuate in numbers, as elsewhere, with the state of the season, but are not more than usually common. Jealousy is the commonest motive for murder.

Land revenue.

It appears from the *Ain-i-Akbarī* that the *parganas* included in the District of Akola, as constituted before 1905, paid a revenue of nearly 24 lakhs, including *suyūrghāl*—slightly more than that for 1903–4. After making due allowance for the extension of cultivation since the sixteenth century, when Berār was frequently the seat of war, and for the rise in the price of agricultural produce since that time, it is safe to say that the slight actual fall in the land revenue demand represents a very great relative fall. The extent to which the District suffered from the wars and maladministration of the latter part of the seventeenth, the eighteenth, and the early part of the nineteenth century is clearly indicated by the fall in the land revenue demand in these same *parganas*, which in 1853 amounted, including *jāgīrs*, to little more than 8 lakhs. With the extension of cultivation after the Assignment the revenue rapidly improved, and between 1864 and 1869 the District was regularly surveyed and assessed. The demand amounted to 17·8 lakhs in 1894, before the revised rates had been introduced in any *tāluk*. The revision survey took place between the years 1894 and 1899, and the present demand is nearly 24 lakhs. The maximum, minimum, and average assessments per acre are Rs. 2–12, Rs. 1–10, and Rs. 1–12 respectively. Garden lands irrigated from wells were formerly assessed at special rates; but lands irrigated from wells sunk before the original settlement are now assessed at the maximum 'dry' rate of the village to which they belong, while those irrigated from wells sunk later are treated in all respects as 'dry' lands, and assessed accordingly. A maximum combined soil and water rate of Rs. 8 per acre is applied to lands irrigated from streams

and tanks, and rice land is uniformly assessed at Rs. 6 per acre.

Collections on account of land revenue and revenue from all sources are shown in the following table, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-1.	1890-1.	1900-1.	1903-4.
Land revenue . .	17,77	17,79	19,44	22,54
Total revenue . .	23,25	25,77	34,86	31,39

Outside the four municipalities of AKOLA, KHĀMGAON, SHEGAON, and AKOT, local affairs are managed by the District board and the five *tāluk* boards subordinate to it. The expenditure of the District board in 1903–4 was Rs. 2,57,202, the principal heads being education (Rs. 35,000) and public works (Rs. 89,000). **Local boards.**

The District contains 19 police stations, 2 outposts, and 2 road-posts, besides one railway police station at Shegaon and 5 railway outposts, 2 of which are within the limits of Buldāna District, but are under the control of the District Superintendent of Akola. The District and railway police number 603 of all ranks. **Police and jails.**

The Akola District jail serves also as a Central jail for the Districts of Akola, Buldāna, and Bāsim, and, so far as regards the collection of convicts to be dispatched to the Andamans, for the whole province. The jail contained a daily average of 286 prisoners in 1904.

Akola stands third among the six Districts of Berār in the literacy of its population, of whom 5·2 per cent. (9·9 males and 0·5 females) are able to read and write. In 1903–4 the number of public schools was 153, and aided and unaided schools numbered 105 and 7 respectively. The public schools contained 10,659 pupils, and the other schools 2,943 pupils. Only 1,121 were in secondary schools. Girls at school numbered 780. Of the male population of school-going age nearly 14 per cent., and of the female population of the same age 1·3 per cent., were under primary instruction in 1903–4. There is a special school for Mahārs and Māngs, which was founded at Akola by a well-to-do Mahār. The total expenditure on education in 1903–4 was 1·6 lakhs, of which Rs. 63,000 was contributed by local bodies and Rs. 18,000 was derived from fees. **Education.**

The District possesses one civil hospital and eight charitable dispensaries, containing accommodation for 58 in-patients. In 1903 the number of cases treated was 60,650, of whom 587 **Hospitals and dispensaries.**

were in-patients, and 1,920 operations were performed. T expenditure was Rs. 20,083, the greater part of which was m from Local and municipal funds.

Vaccination. In 1903–4 the number of persons successfully vaccinat was 39 per 1,000, the mean for the province being 36 Vaccination is compulsory only in the four municipalities.

District redistribution. In August, 1905, the six Districts of Berār were reconstitute and the limits of Akola District were considerably altered. received the *tāluk* of Murtazāpur from Amraotī and the *tālu* of Bāsim and Mangrūl from Bāsim, which ceased to exist a separate District. On the other hand, the *tāluks* of Khā gaon and Jalgaon were transferred to Buldāna. The prese area of Akola District is 4,111 square miles, and the populati of this area in 1901 was 754,804.

[*Tāluk Settlement Reports*: Major R. V. Garrett, *Ako* (1896), *Akot* (1897); F. W. Francis, *Malkāpur*, *Khāmgao* and *Jalgaon* (1892), *Bālāpur* (1895).]

Akola Tāluk. — Head-quarters *tāluk* of Akola Distri Berār, lying between 20° 25′ and 20° 55′ N. and 76° 55′ a 77° 25′ E., with an area of 739 square miles. The populati rose from 137,988 in 1891 to 150,222 in 1901. The densit 203 persons per square mile, is higher than in any *tāluk* in t District except Akot. The *tāluk* contains 287 villages and t towns, AKOLA (population, 29,289), the head-quarters of t District and *tāluk*, and BĀRSĪ TĀKLI (6,288). The dema for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 5,71,000, and for cess Rs. 45,000. The *tāluk* lies chiefly in the fertile valley of t Pūrna, which bounds it on the north, but stretches southwa as far as the northern edge of the Bālāghāt, the southe plateau of Berār. The Kāta Pūrna flows northwards throu the *tāluk* to join the Pūrna.

Akot Tāluk.—Northern *tāluk* of Akola District, Berār, lyi between 20° 55′ and 21° 15′ N. and 76° 47′ and 77° 15′ E with an area of 517 square miles. The population hard varied at all between 1891 and 1901, the census enumerati being 137,720 in the earlier and 137,683 in the later yea The density, 266 persons per square mile, is the highest in t District and, with the exception of the Ellichpur *tāluk* (31 the highest in the province. The *tāluk* contains 228 villag and two towns, AKOT (population, 18,252), a municipality a the head-quarters of the *tāluk*, and HIWARKHED (6,143). T demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 6,12,000, and f cesses Rs. 48,000. The *tāluk* lies in the fertile valley of t Pūrna river, which bounds it on the south. On the north it

bounded by the Gāwīlgarh Hills; and a sharp curve in this northern boundary line includes in the *tāluk* the old fort of Narnāla, situated on the southern range of these hills. The village of Argaon, the site of Sir Arthur Wellesley's victory over the Marāthās on November 29, 1803, lies 7 miles to the west of Akot. The *tāluk* is well watered by streams flowing southwards from the Gāwīlgarh Hills into the Pūrna; but the area of irrigated land is, as elsewhere in Berār, insignificant.

Bālāpur Tāluk.—*Tāluk* of Akola District, Berār, lying between 20° 17′ and 20° 55′ N. and 76° 45′ and 77° E., with an area of 569 square miles. The population rose from 101,673 in 1891 to 104,495 in 1901, the density being 184 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 162 villages and three towns, Bālāpur, the head-quarters (population, 10,486), Pātūr (5,990), and Wādegaon (5,825). A few miles from Bālāpur are the ruins of the palace built at Shāhpur by prince Murād, fourth son of the emperor Akbar, immediately after the annexation of Berār by the Mughals. The fort and *chhatrī* at Bālāpur and the shrine of Shaikh Bābū at Pātūr are interesting. The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 3,62,000, and for cesses Rs. 28,000. The only natural boundaries are the Pūrna river on the north, and the Bālāghāt hills on the south. The *tāluk* lies almost entirely in the fertile valley of the Pūrna; but the land in the south, which occupies the lower slopes of the Bālāghāt, is comparatively poor.

Bāsim Subdivision.—Subdivision of Akola District, Berār, consisting of the Bāsim and Mangrūl *tāluks*.

Bāsim Tāluk.—Formerly the head-quarters *tāluk* of Bāsim District, but since August, 1905, the southern *tāluk* of Akola District, Berār, lying between 19° 52′ and 20° 25′ N. and 75° 40′ and 77° 28′ E., with an area of 1,046 square miles. The population fell from 177,250 in 1891 to 153,320 in 1901, and the density, 147 persons per square mile, is less than in any other *tāluk* except Mangrūl. The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 3,76,000, and for cesses Rs. 30,000. The *tāluk* contains 324 villages and only one town, Bāsim (population, 13,823), the head-quarters of the *tāluk* and of the Bāsim subdivision. The northern part of the *tāluk* lies in the Bālāghāt, or southern plateau of Berār; but the southern portion lies in the valley of the Pengangā, which forms the southern boundary from Pārdī eastwards. The soil is fertile, especially in the Pengangā valley.

Mangrūl Tāluk.—Formerly a *tāluk* of Bāsim District, but

since August, 1905, the south-eastern *tāluk* of Akola District, Berār, lying between 20° 4′ and 20° 80′ N. and 77° 9′ and 77° 42′ E., with an area of 630 square miles. The population rose from 82,446 in 1891 to 91,062 in 1901, the density, 144 persons per square mile, being the lowest in the District. The *tāluk* contains 202 villages and only one town, MANGRŪL PĪR (population, 5,793). The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 1,68,000, and for cesses Rs. 13,000. The *tāluk* lies in the Bālāghāt, or southern plateau of Berār, and its most fertile tracts are those in the valleys of the streams running southwards to the Pengangā river.

Murtazāpur Tāluk.—*Tāluk* of Akola District, Berār (to which it was transferred from Amraotī District in August, 1905), lying between 20° 26′ and 20° 53′ N. and 77° 18′ and 77° 47′ E., with an area of 610 square miles. The population fell from 121,657 in 1891 to 118,022 in 1901. The density is 193 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 260 villages and two towns, MURTAZĀPUR (population, 6,156), the head-quarters, and KĀRANJA BĪBĪ (16,535). The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 4,11,000, and for cesses Rs. 33,000. The *tāluk* lies almost entirely in the Pāyānghāt, the fertile valley of Berār, but the extreme south extends to the slopes of the southern plateau.

Akola Town.—Chief town of the District and *tāluk* of the same name in Berār, situated in 20° 42′ N. and 77° 2′ E., on the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 383 miles from Bombay and 157 from Nāgpur. The population in 1901 was 29,289, of whom 21,045 were Hindus, 7,484 Musalmāns, 358 Christians, and 226 Jains. Akola is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as the chief town of a rich *pargana* in the *sarkār* of Narnāla. The walls of the town and the *īdgāh* were built for the most part by Asad Khān, Amīr-ul-Umarā, in whose *jāgīr* Akola was situated in the latter part of the reign of Aurangzeb. The walls bear many inscriptions recording the dates of their erection and repair. Later, in the reign of Akbar Shāh II of Delhi (1806–37), a citadel was built by Sālih Muhammad Khān, who held the town, with a force of 5 elephants, 1,000 horse, and some infantry, for the Nizām. In 1803 General Wellesley halted at Akola on his way from Assaye to Argaon, 36 miles north of the town, where, on November 29, he defeated the Marāthās under Venkajī, the brother of Raghujī Bhonsla. During the later years of the Nizām's rule, the importance of Akola declined owing to the malpractices of the *tālukdār*, who robbed the people and did not keep off other marauders; and

many of the inhabitants emigrated to Amraotī. The town is bisected by the Mūrna river, Akola proper being on the west bank, and Tājnāpeth, with the houses of Europeans and Government buildings, on the east bank. The municipality was created in 1867. The income and expenditure during the ten years ending 1900–1 averaged Rs. 59,000 and Rs. 61,090 respectively. In 1903–4 the income was Rs. 62,000, chiefly derived from taxes and cesses; and the expenditure was Rs. 44,000, the principal heads being conservancy and education.

The town is one of the principal centres of the cotton trade in Berār, and has many ginning factories and cotton-presses. A cotton market has existed at Tājnāpeth since 1868. Two Protestant missions are situated at Akola. The educational institutions include a Government high school and a primary school for Mahār boys.

Akot Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Akola District, Berār, situated in 21° 6′ N. and 77° 6′ E. Population (1901), 18,252. The town is interspersed with garden land and mango groves, and is plentifully supplied with water from wells. Several good examples of building in carved stone occur. Municipal administration was established in 1884. The income and expenditure during the ten years ending 1900–1 averaged Rs. 13,000. In 1903–4 the income was Rs. 15,000, chiefly derived from taxes and cesses; and the expenditure was Rs. 15,000, the principal heads being conservancy, education, and administration. Akot is a large cotton mart, cotton being dispatched to Shegaon and Akola. Good cotton carpets are manufactured here, the best sorts being made only to order. The town has several ginning factories.

Argaon.—Village in the Akot *tāluk* of Akola District, Berār, situated in 21° 7′ N. and 76° 59′ E. Population (1901), 3,131. The place, the name of which means 'village of wells,' is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as the head-quarters of a *pargana*. On the broad plain, intersected by watercourses, before Argaon, General Wellesley gained a great victory (November 29, 1803) over the Nāgpur army under Venkajī, brother of Raghujī Bhonsla. The battle was followed up by the capture of Gāwīlgarh. A medal, with a bar commemorative of Argaon, was struck in 1851 and presented to the surviving officers and soldiers.

Bālāpur Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Akola District, Berār, situated in 20° 40′ N. and 76° 50′ E., 6 miles south of Pūras station on the Great Indian

Peninsula Railway. Population (1901), 10,486. The Mūn river divides the town from the *peth* or suburb. Bālāpur was the chief military station of the Mughals in Berār after Ellichpur; and at a distance of a few miles from the town Akbar's son, prince Murād, founded Shāhpur, now in ruins. Bālāpur is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as one of the richest *parganas* in Berār. Muhammad Azam Shāh, third son of Aurangzeb, is said to have resided here and to have built a mud fort. Close to the town Asaf Jāh defeated (July, 1720) the imperial forces dispatched against him by the Saiyids, after a severe engagement in which his famous Deccan artillery decided the day. The fort of Bālāpur is the largest and strongest in Berār, the hill-forts of the Melghāt excepted. It was completed in 1757 by Ismail Khān, first Nawāb of Ellichpur, and consists of an inner and outer fort, the former rising by the whole height of its walls above the latter. The outer or lower fort is a decagon, with a bastion at each angle, and the inner is a pentagon, the angles of which likewise terminate in bastions. Both forts are entered by Mughal gateways. The *chhatrī*, or pavilion, of Rājā Jai Singh, a commander of 4,000 horse in the reign of Shāh Jahān, and afterwards one of Aurangzeb's best generals, stands apart from the fort overlooking the river. It is a graceful building of black stone, 38 feet high, on a high plinth. A fine flight of steps formerly led down to the river, but these have been washed away during the last thirty years. The Jāma Masjid, once a fine building 90 feet long, but now a ruin, dates from 1623. The woven manufactures, formerly in high repute, are at present little sought after, and the importance of the town is declining.

Bārsī Tākli.—Town in the District and *tāluk* of Akola, Berār, situated in 20° 35′ N. and 77° 7′ E. Population (1901), 6,288. At this place there is a remarkably fine Hemādpanti temple, with an inscription giving the date Saka 1098 (A.D. 1176), which is probably the date of its construction.

Bāsim Town (or Wāshim).—Head-quarters of the Bāsim *tāluk*, Akola District, Berār, situated in 20° 7′ N. and 77° 11′ E., at a height of 1,758 feet above sea-level; distant 52 miles south-south-east from Akola on the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, with which it is connected by a good metalled road. Population (1901), 13,823. Bāsim is said to be a very old town, and to have been founded by Wachh, a Rishi. A legend tells of a king, Vāsuki, afflicted with leprosy, who was cured by bathing in a pool outside the town, which he enlarged to a tank, known as Padma Tīrtha, still largely

resorted to for bathing. It is also said to petrify articles exposed to its action. The *deshmukhs* of Bāsim in the seventeenth century received large grants of land and perquisites from the Mughal emperors, and the family has always been of some consideration in South Berār. After the Bhonsla ruler of Nāgpur ceased to receive a share (40 per cent.) of the revenue, the Nizām stationed troops and established a mint at Bāsim. The most striking buildings are the temple and tank of Bālājī, constructed rather more than a hundred years ago by Bhawāni Kālu, a general of the Bhonslas. The municipality was created in 1867. The income and expenditure during the ten years ending 1901 averaged Rs. 13,400 and Rs. 12,700. In 1903–4 the income was Rs. 18,000, principally from taxes, the expenditure, mainly devoted to education and conservancy, being nearly the same. The town contains several ginning factories and a cotton-press. It was the head-quarters of Bāsim District till 1905, when that District ceased to exist as a separate administrative unit.

Hiwarkhed.—Town in the Akot *taluk* of Akola District, Berār, situated in 21° 8′ N. and 76° 54′ E. Population (1901), 6,143. The chief trade of the town is in cotton and other agricultural produce.

Kāranja.—Town in the Murtazāpur *tāluk* of Akola District, Berār, situated in 20° 29′ N. and 77° 32′ E. Population (1901), 16,535. Kāranja is a place of some commercial importance. It is said to take its name from a Hindu saint, Karinj Rishī, who, being afflicted with a grievous disease, invoked the aid of the goddess Ambā. She created for him a tank, still existing opposite the temple of the goddess, in which he bathed and became clean. The town is surrounded by an old wall, now dilapidated. It is known as Kāranja Bībī, owing, it is said, to its having once formed part of the dowry of Daulat Shāh Begam (*see* BADNERA). The municipality was created in 1895. The income and expenditure during the ten years ending 1900–1 averaged Rs. 14,000 and Rs. 13,500. In 1903–4 the income was Rs. 18,000, mainly derived from taxes and cesses; and the expenditure was Rs. 15,000, chiefly devoted to conservancy and education. Kāranja is connected with Murtazāpur (20 miles) by a metalled road.

Mangrūl Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Akola District, Berār, situated in 20° 19′ N. and 77° 24′ E. Population (1901), 5,793. The town is distinguished from many other places of the same name by the epithet *Pīr*, which has reference either to the shrine of Hayāt Kalandar, or

to the shrines of several minor saints buried here. The real name of Hayāt Kalandar is said to have been Shāh Badr-ud-dīn, and he was also known as Bābā Budhan and Saiyid Ahmad Kabīr. He is traditionally said to have been born at Bataih in Rūm (Asia Minor), and to have died in 1253. The shrine at Mangrūl must therefore be a cenotaph; and it is believed not to be more than about four hundred years old. Of the minor saints buried here, none has any celebrity beyond the neighbourhood.

Murtazāpur Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Akola District, Berār, situated in 20° 44′ N. and 77° 25′ E., on the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 386 miles from Bombay. Population (1901), 6,156. Murtazāpur, probably named after Murtazā Nizām Shāh of Ahmadnagar, has outstripped the neighbouring village of Sirson, which in the days of Akbar was the head-quarters of the *pargana*. Large quantities of cotton are sent here from Karānja and other places for carriage to Bombay, and the town has seven cotton-presses and ten ginning factories.

Narnāla.—Hill fortress in the Akot *tāluk* of Akola District, Berār, situated in 21° 15′ N. and 77° 4′ E., on the southernmost range of the Sātpurā Hills, at an elevation of 3,161 feet. The hill was probably fortified at an early date, for Firishta says that the fort was repaired by the Bahmani king Ahmad Shāh Walī, when he encamped at Ellichpur from 1425 to 1428.

The works comprise three distinct forts: Jafarābād on the east, Narnāla itself in the centre, and Teliyagarh on the west. There are six large and twenty-one small gates. The system of water-supply in this fort was admirable, and portions of an aqueduct and of drains for catching surface water still remain. Within the walls are situated nineteen tanks, of which only four hold water throughout the year. Four very curious covered stone cisterns are supposed, apparently on slender grounds, to have been the work of Jains before the Muhammadan invasion. The Jāma Masjid, now in ruins, is said to have borne an Arabic inscription recording its construction in 1509 by Mahābat Khān, but this has disappeared. A small mosque attributed to Aurangzeb is in good repair. Other buildings are the *Bāradarī*, the *Sarrāfkhāna*, the arsenal, and the elephant stables. There are also the ruins of a palace erected for Raghujī Bhonsla, and on Teliyagarh is a small mosque. The most interesting part of the fort is the innermost of the three gateways of the Shāhnūr entrance. It is built of white sandstone and is highly ornate being decorated with conventional

lotus flowers, a rich cornice, and Arabic inscriptions, and flanked by projecting balconies with panels of stone lattice-work displaying considerable variety of design. A short text from the Korān, used as a chronogram, gives the date of the building of the gate as 1486, and the date is also expressed in words. A second inscription records the fact that the gate was built in the reign of Shahāb-ud-dīn Mahmūd Shāh (Bahmani), and contains an interesting though evidently inaccurate account of that monarch's descent.

In 1437, when Nasīr Khān, the Fārūki king of Khāndesh, invaded Berār, the Khān-i-Jahān, governor of the province, who remained faithful to his master, the Bahmani king Alā-ud-dīn Ahmad Shāh II, was besieged in Narnāla by disaffected nobles, but managed to break through the besieging force and joined Khalaf Hasan before his victory at ROHANKHED. Burhān Imād Shāh, the last of the independent kings of Berār, was confined in Narnāla by his minister Tufāl Khān; and in 1572 Murtazā Nizām Shāh of Ahmadnagar laid siege to the fortress and captured both king and minister, subsequently putting them to death. In 1597–8 the fort was captured by Akbar's officers, Saiyid Yūsuf Khān Mashhadī and Shaikh Abul Fazl, from the officer who held it for the king of Ahmadnagar.

Pātūr.—Town in the Bālāpur *tāluk* of Akola District, Berār, situated in 20° 27′ N. and 76° 59′ E. Population (1901), 5,990. In the side of a low hill just east of the town are two caves hewn in the rock. These are simple *vihāras* with a veranda. The inscriptions on the pillars and architraves have not yet been deciphered, and the caves are otherwise unadorned, and contain no images except a portion of a seated figure with the legs crossed, which has been held to be a Jain saint, but may possibly be Buddhist.

The town is commonly known as Pātūr Shaikh Bābū from the shrine of Shaikh Abdul-Azīz, commonly known as Shaikh Bābū, who is said to have come to Pātūr from Delhi in 1378, and to have died here eleven years later. According to the legend the saint was highly regarded by Muhammad bin Tughlak, whom he cured of fever on one occasion, and who built the shrine over his grave. But unfortunately for the legend, Muhammad bin Tughlak died thirty-nine years before the shrine was built. An inscription in the interior of the shrine contains a chronogram giving the date of the saint's death, while another over the principal gate records the fact that the shrine was repaired in 1606–7 by Abdur Rahīm, Khān-

i-Khānān, son of Bairam Khān. A Hindu fair is held annually in January–February, lasting upwards of a month. A Musalmān fair, lasting for three days, is held at the shrine of Shaikh Bābū. The gates in the walls of the town bear some inscriptions, now illegible.

Sirpur.—Village in the Bāsim *tāluk* of Akola District, Berār, situated in 20° 11′ N. and 77° E. Population (1901), 3,809. The old temple of Antariksha Pārsvanātha belonging to the Digambara Jain community has an inscription with a date which has been read as 1406. The temple was probably built at least a hundred years before the date of the inscription. The tradition is that Yelluk, a Rājā of Ellichpur, probably an eponymous hero, found the idol on the banks of a river, and that his prayer for permission to transport it to his own city was granted on condition of his not looking back. At Sirpur, however, his faith became weak, and he looked back. The idol instantly became immovable and remained suspended in mid-air for many years.

Wādegaon.—Town in the Bālāpur *tāluk* of Akola District, Berār, situated in 20° 35′ N. and 76° 54′ E. Population (1901), 5,825.

Boundaries, configuration, and hill and river systems.

Buldāna District (*Bulthānā*).—District in Berār, lying between 19° 51′ and 21° 1′ N. and 75° 59′ and 76° 52′ E., with an area of 2,806 square miles. This article describes the District as it existed up to 1905, but a statement at the end shows the additions then made. It is bounded on the north by the Pūrna river; on the east by Akola and Bāsim Districts; on the south by the Nizām's Dominions; and on the west by the Nizām's Dominions and the Khāndesh District of the Bombay Presidency. Of the three *tāluks* into which it is divided, Chikhlī and Mehkar are in the Bālāghāt and Malkāpur is in the Pāyānghāt. The general contour of the country in the two former *tāluks* may be described as a succession of small plateaux, highest on the north, where they rise from the central valley of Berār, and gradually decreasing in elevation towards the south. The town of Buldāna is situated near the northern edge of the highest plateau, 2,190 feet above sea-level. Towards the eastern side of the District, the country consists of undulating highlands, favoured with soil of a high quality. The small fertile valleys between the plateaux are watered by streams during the greater part of the year, while wells of particularly good and pure water are numerous. These valleys contain all the best village sites. It is not necessary to describe in detail the Malkāpur *tāluk*, for the

description of the Pāyānghāt in the article on BERĀR is in all respects applicable to its conditions.

The principal river which takes its rise in the District is the Pengangā, which rises in the hills near Deūlghāt, runs in a south-easterly direction past Mehkar, and then enters Bāsim District. The Pūrna rises in the Ajanta Hills to the west of the District, enters it a little to the north of Deūlgaon Rājā, and traverses the Mehkar *tāluk* in a south-easterly direction, its course running parallel to, and south of, that of the Pengangā. These two rivers are important members of the Godāvari system, but they do not acquire their importance until after they have left the District. The other rivers of Buldāna are the Nalgangā, the Biswa or Vishvagangā, and the Ghan, all of which rise near the northern edge of the Buldāna plateau, and flow southwards into the Pūrna of the Berār valley, which is not to be confounded with the Godāvari Pūrna already mentioned.

The District contains the only natural lake in Berār, the salt lake of LONĀR, situated in the south of the Mehkar *tāluk*.

Geology.

The two northern *tāluks* are covered with the Deccan trap-flow, which is, however, overlaid nearly everywhere, but especially in the valleys, with rich soil of varying depth. The hollow in which the Lonār lake lies exhibits some of the characteristics of a volcanic crater, but is believed to be due to a gaseous explosion, which occurred some time after the deposit of the trap. The Malkāpur *tāluk*, beyond the lower slopes of the Buldāna plateau, is covered with a deep layer of rich and exceedingly fertile black loam.

Botany.

The vegetation of the forest area will be described in the account of the Forests. In cultivated tracts the commonest trees are the mango, the *mahuā* (*Bassia latifolia*), the *pīpal* (*Ficus religiosa*), the banyan, the *babūl* (*Acacia arabica*), and the *hiwar* (*Acacia leucophloea*). The weed vegetation in cultivated ground is that characteristic of the Deccan generally, and includes small *Compositae*, *Leguminosae*, *Rubiaceae*, and *Malvaceae*.

Fauna.

In the hills, tigers, leopards, bears, hyenas, wolves, *sāmbhar*, *nīlgai*, and wild hog are found; in the valleys wild hog and antelope; and, about the banks of the Pūrna, spotted deer and *nīlgai*. The only monkey in the District is the *langūr*.

Climate and temperature.

The climate of the Malkāpur *tāluk* is intensely hot and dry in the months of March, April, and May; but the nights are usually cool. For the next four months the temperature is considerably lower, but occasionally the combination of fairly

high temperatures with humidity has an enervating effect. In the *tāluks* of Chikhlī and Mehkar, which are situated in the Bālāghāt, the climate is cooler than that of Malkāpur; the hot season sets in later, and the heat is never so intense as in the Pāyānghāt. Buldāna is, owing to its elevation, the coolest and most pleasant station in Berār. The rainy season in the Bālāghāt *tāluks* is temperate and pleasant; and the cold season throughout the District, particularly in the Bālāghāt *tāluks*, is cool and invigorating.

Rainfall. In respect of rainfall the District is divided into two natural divisions: the Malkāpur *tāluk* in the Pāyānghāt, and the Chikhlī and Mehkar *tāluks* in the Bālāghāt. Rainfall statistics for Malkāpur are not available, but the figure given for Akola (34 inches) may be accepted as correct for this area. In the *tāluks* of the Bālāghāt the rainfall is heavier, that recorded in 1901, which was a normal year, being 44 inches. For some years past there has been a failure, either partial or complete, of the late rains.

History. Buldāna, though it has occasionally been the scene of historical events, has little or no connected history of its own. ROHANKHED has been the site of two battles: one fought in 1437 between Khalaf Hasan Basri, commanding the army of Alā-ud-dīn Shāh Bahmani II, and Nasīr Khān, Fārūki king of Khandesh; and the other in 1590, between Burhān Nizām Shāhi and Jamāl Khān the Mahdavī, who supported the claims of Ismail to the throne of Ahmadnagar against those of his father Burhān. Burhān was victorious and Jamāl Khān was slain. In 1724 Shakarkhelda was the scene of the battle to which it owes its present name of FATHKHELDA. Mubāriz Khān, governor of Mālwā, instigated by a party in the Mughal court at Delhi, invaded Berār and attacked Asaf Jāh, the first Nizām. Asaf Jāh gained a complete victory, and Mubāriz Khān and his two sons fell. This battle established the virtual independence of the Nizāms in the Deccan. Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghujī Bhonsla were encamped at Malkāpur when, in August, 1813, they allowed the British envoy to depart and received General Wellesley's declaration of war. A month or two later General Wellesley traversed the District while pursuing them from Assaye to Argaon. The condition of the country was at this time very unsatisfactory. During the next fifty years there was some improvement; but the local officials were seldom strong enough to keep the peace, and the town of Malkāpur was more than once the scene of faction fights which arose out of religious disputes.

After the Assignment in 1853 Buldāna formed part of the West Berār District, but was formed in 1864 into an independent charge, styled the South-west Berār District—a clumsy designation which was changed in the following year to the Mehkar District. In 1867 Buldāna was selected as the head-quarters of the District, to which it thenceforth gave its name.

Archaeology. Lonār and Mehkar contain two of the finest Hemādpanti temples in Berār, and there is an inferior temple in the same style at Kothalī. The mosques of Fathkhelda and Rohankhed were built in 1581 and 1582, evidently from the designs of one architect, by Khudāwand Khān the Mahdavī, the supporter of Jamāl Khān and the young Ismail Nizām Shāhi.

The people. The number of towns and villages in the District is 876. The population at each of the last four enumerations has been: (1867) 366,309, (1881) 439,763, (1891) 481,021, and (1901) 423,616. The decline during the last decade was due to the famine of 1899–1900. The District is divided into the three *tāluks* of CHIKHLĪ, MEHKAR, and MALKĀPUR, the head-quarters of which are at the places from which each is named. The chief towns are MALKĀPUR, NĀNDŪRA, and DEŪLGAON RĀJĀ.

The following table gives particulars of area, towns and villages, and population in 1901:—

Tāluk.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Chikhlī	1,009	3	269	129,590	128	– 13.6	5,356
Malkāpur	792	2	288	173,234	219	– 2.6	7,782
Mehkar	1,008	1	313	120,792	120	– 26.7	4,156
District total	2,809	6	870	423,616	156	– 11.9	17,294

Buldāna stands third among the six Districts of Berār in the density of its population, the two Bālāghāt *tāluks* being less densely populated than the Pāyānghāt *tāluk* of Malkāpur. More than 90 per cent. of the people are Hindus. The language of the District is Marāthī; but the Musalmāns, who number 34,579, speak a corrupt dialect of Urdū, which is generally understood by all.

Castes and occupations. The Kunbīs (162,000) are the most numerous caste in Buldāna, as in other Districts of Berār, and are more numerous in this District than in any other except Akola, and proportionately more numerous than in Akola. The Mahārs (50,000)

come second in point of numbers, and the Musalmāns (35,000) third. Mālīs number 27,000; Brāhmans, 12,000; Rājputs, 9,000; Telis, 9,000; and Banjārās, 4,000. Buldāna, like all other parts of Berār, is essentially an agricultural District, as is indicated by the very great preponderance of the agricultural castes. Of the total population, nearly 74 per cent. are supported by agriculture and 13 per cent. by industries.

Christian missions.

There are three Christian missions in the District, the Church Missionary Alliance, the Pentecostal Mission, and the Free Church Mission. Of the 178 Christians enumerated in 1901, 149 were natives.

General agricultural conditions.

The Mehkar and Chikhlī *tāluks* are situated in the Bālāghāt, and the Malkāpur *tāluk* in the Pāyānghāt. The different agricultural conditions of these two natural divisions are described in the article on BERĀR. The only characteristic of the District which calls for special notice is the suitability of the rich land in the valleys between the plateaux in the Bālāghāt for the cultivation of *rabi* crops, especially wheat. Owing, however, to the failure of late rains for some years past *rabi* cultivation in the District has declined, and the effect of this failure has naturally been felt more in Buldāna than elsewhere in Berār.

Chief agricultural statistics and principal crops.

The tenures on which the District is held are almost entirely *ryotwāri*, *jāgīr* villages covering only 90 square miles out of 2,809. The principal agricultural statistics are shown below, in square miles:—

Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Cultivable waste.	Forest.
2,809	2,270	9	21	353

The staple food-grain is *jowār* (great millet), the area under which in 1903-4 was 495 square miles. The area under cotton, the most profitable crop to the cultivator, was 615 square miles, and oilseeds occupied 205 and wheat 264 square miles.

Improvements in agricultural practice.

The increase in the cultivated area during the last thirty years has been less than one per cent., the rich lands in this District being among the first to be reoccupied after the Assignment. It cannot be said that much improvement has been made in methods of cultivation or in the quality of the crops sown. On the contrary, the cultivator has now given up the fine long-stapled cotton for which Berār was formerly well-known, in favour of a coarser but more prolific short-stapled variety. The advantages offered by the Loans Acts were not

much appreciated before the famine of 1899–1900; but since that year they have become more generally known. In the three years ending 1902 the total advances amounted to 1·2 lakhs. Increased prosperity rather than any disinclination to apply for loans is responsible for a subsequent fall in the demand.

Cattle, &c. The principal breeds of cattle are the Khāmgaon variety of the Berāri breed in the Chikhlī *tāluk*, and the Umarda variety elsewhere; but since the famine of 1899–1900 large numbers of cattle of the Sholāpuri and Nimāri breeds have been imported, and in the south of the District the characteristics of the local varieties are much modified by the admixture of blood from cattle found in the northern Districts of Hyderābād State. Buffaloes are chiefly of the Nāgpuri strain, except in the Mehkar *tāluk*, where the Dakhani breed prevails. The ponies, sheep, and goats bred locally are very inferior, and call for no special notice.

Irrigation. Irrigated land in Buldāna, as elsewhere in Berār, bears a very small proportion to the area under cultivation. The 9 square miles irrigated in 1903–4 were supplied entirely from wells, and were devoted chiefly to the raising of garden crops.

Forests. Forest lands are divided, as elsewhere in Berār, according as they are reserved for the supply of timber and fuel, for fodder, or for pasture. The area of these classes is 155, 4, and 174 square miles respectively. A belt of forest land of the first class, extending along the Ajanta Hills from west to east, is continuous with the forest lands of Khāmgaon in Akola District. The principal trees are *salai* (*Boswellia thurifera*), *lendia* (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), *khair* (*Acacia Catechu*), *ber* (*Zizyphus Jujuba*), and *chār* (*Buchanania latifolia*). Teak occurs along the crests of the ridges and in sheltered ravines, in which, as they widen, *palās* (*Butea frondosa*) and other species of little value appear. East of the Malkāpur-Buldāna road the principal species are *anjan* (*Hardwickia binata*), *salai*, and *khair*. The *ramnas*, or fodder reserves, are grass lands with a scrub growth of acacia and *palās*; and the tree vegetation of the grazing lands consists of acacias, *palās*, *lendia*, *dhaura* (*Anogeissus latifolia*), *ber*, *chār*, and *tendū* (*Diospyros melanoxylon*).

Minerals. No minerals are now of economic value. Salts and alkalis were formerly procured by evaporation from the LONAR lake, but the industry has long since been abandoned. In the *Ain-i-Akbarī* it was thus described: 'It [the Lonār lake] contains the essential materials for the manufacture of glass

and soap, and saltpetre is here produced and yields a considerable revenue.'

Arts and manufactures.

Arts and manufactures are unimportant. In the larger villages of the Mehkar *tāluk* cotton cloths and blankets, which command a local sale, are woven on hand-looms; and there are similar looms, but in smaller numbers, in the more accessible *tāluks* of Chikhlī and Malkāpur. The principal industry is naturally the preparation of cotton for the market, and the District contains nine ginning factories and three cotton-presses, all worked by steam.

Commerce.

The principal exports are raw cotton, oilseeds, and grain and pulse; and the principal imports are grain and pulse, coal and coke, sugar, and salt. The main trade is with Bombay, whither nearly all the raw cotton is exported by rail, and whence the imports, except coal and coke, are mainly received. The commerce of the District has hitherto been largely carried along the main roads to stations on the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway; but the southern portion of the District is now accessible from Jālna on the Hyderābād-Godāvari Valley Railway, and some of the trade has been diverted to this route, though Bombay still remains its objective. The weekly markets, held almost exclusively at old *pargana* towns, are the important centres of local trade; and the principal classes engaged in commerce are the Mārwāris and the Vānīs, though most classes are represented.

Railways and roads.

The Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, which traverses the northern portion of the Malkāpur *tāluk* from west to east, has a length in this District of about 28 miles. The total length of metalled roads is 107 miles and of unmetalled roads 82 miles. Except 36 miles of unmetalled roads maintained from Local funds, the rest are in charge of the Public Works department.

Famine.

The District is neither more nor less fortunate than other parts of Berār in respect of liability to famine, and has suffered equally with them in the past. The famine of 1803 was a very severe calamity, and there was then no government in a position to afford any relief. In 1896–7 the District suffered from scarcity, and the famine of 1899–1900 was felt at least as severely in Buldāna as in any part of the province. In July, 1900, when the distress was at its height, 117,409 persons were on relief works and 39,455 in receipt of gratuitous relief; and it is calculated that 28 per cent. of the cattle died.

The three[1] *tāluks*, at the head-quarters of each of which there

[1] The District, since 1905, contains five *tāluks*.

is a *tahsīldār*, have already been mentioned. Buldāna town, though the head-quarters of the District, is not the head-quarters of a *tāluk*, but is situated in the Chikhlī *tāluk*. The superior staff of the District consists of the usual officers, but the Forest officer has charge also of the forests in Akola District. An Assistant or Extra-Assistant Commissioner, exercising the powers of a first-class magistrate, holds his court at Malkāpur. District subdivisions and staff.

For judicial purposes Buldāna forms, with Akola, the Civil and Sessions District of West Berār, in which are stationed a District and Sessions Judge and an Additional District and Sessions Judge. Subordinate Judges hold their courts at Buldāna and Khāmgaon, and Munsifs are stationed at Malkāpur and Mehkar. Serious offences against property occur somewhat more frequently than elsewhere in Berār. Dacoity was very common in times past, owing to the number of Bhīls in the District; and at one time a corps of Hill Rangers, under a British officer, was maintained principally for the purpose of suppressing this class of crime. But organized dacoities by hereditary professional gangs are now a thing of the past, and the condition of Buldāna as regards crime is in no way abnormal. Civil and criminal justice.

From the *Ain-i-Akbarī* we learn that in Akbar's reign the demand on account of land revenue in the *parganas* which now compose the District of Buldāna was 12·4 lakhs. At the time of the Assignment in 1853, the demand in these *parganas* was only a little more than 3 lakhs, so much had the province suffered from wars, disturbances, and misgovernment. The demand in 1903–4 was 12·2 lakhs, which sum is absolutely rather lower than Akbar's demand, and relatively very much lighter. The first regular settlement of the District after the Assignment was begun in 1862 in the Malkāpur *tāluk*, and completed in 1870 in the Mehkar *tāluk*; and this settlement was revised between 1891 and 1897. Land revenue at the revised rates of assessment has been levied for some years in the Malkāpur *tāluk*, and since 1900 in Mehkar; but the new rates have only just been applied to Chikhlī, where their introduction was delayed owing to the effects of the famine of 1899–1900. So far as 'dry' land is concerned, the new assessment has an average incidence of 15 annas 9 pies per acre, varying from 8 annas to Rs. 2–12. Land irrigated by channels from streams and tanks is assessed at a maximum combined soil and water rate of Rs. 8 per acre. Land served by wells sunk before the original settlement pay the highest rate levied on 'dry' land in the village in which it is situated, Land revenue.

but should the well have been made subsequently the land is treated in all respects as 'dry' land. Rice lands are assessed at a maximum rate of Rs. 6 per acre.

Collections on account of land revenue and revenue from all sources have been, in thousands of rupees :—

	1880–1.	1890–1.	1900–1.	1903–4.
Land revenue . . .	9,48	10,49	11,21	11,04
Total revenue . . .	11,33	15,31	16,15	15,53

Local boards.

Outside the municipality of BULDĀNĀ, local affairs are managed by the District board and the *tāluk* boards subordinate to it. The expenditure of these in 1903–4 was Rs. 98,000, of which Rs. 34,000 was spent on public works and Rs. 20,000 on education. The chief source of income is the land cess.

Police and jails.

The District Superintendent of police has control over the police throughout the District, excepting those on the railway line in the Malkāpur *tāluk*, who are subordinate to the District Superintendent of Akola. The District contains 26 police stations, including town stations. The only jail is at Buldāna, which contained in 1903–4 a daily average of 56 prisoners.

Education.

Buldāna stands fourth among the six Districts of Berār in regard to the literacy of its population, of whom 4 per cent. (8.0 males and 0.1 females) were able to read and write in 1901. In 1903–4 the District contained 115 public, 69 aided, 7 unaided, and 3 private schools, with a total of 8,209 pupils, of whom 6,087 were in public schools and 369 were girls. Of the 115 institutions classed as public, all, except three managed by the Buldāna municipality, were under the District board. The great majority of the pupils under instruction were only in primary classes, and no girls had advanced beyond that stage. Education has, however, made great progress in the District, though female education is not yet appreciated. Of the male population of school-going age more than 9 per cent., and of the female population of the same age 0.6 per cent., were in the primary stage of instruction. The total expenditure on education in 1903–4 was Rs. 73,000, of which Rs. 4,000 was derived from fees.

Hospitals and dispensaries.

The District possesses one hospital and seven dispensaries, with accommodation for 44 male and 10 female in-patients. In 1903 the number of cases treated was 56,203, of whom 850 were in-patients, and 1,983 operations were performed. The

expenditure was Rs. 14,000, the greater portion of which was met from Provincial revenues.

In 1903-4 the proportion of persons successfully vaccinated was 39·1 per 1,000, the mean for the province being 36.6. Vaccination is compulsory only in the Buldāna municipality. Vaccination.

On the reconstitution of the six Districts of Berār in August, 1905, Buldāna received the Khāmgaon and Jālgaon *tāluks* from Akola District. The present area of Buldāna District is 3,662 square miles, and the population of that area in 1901 was 613,756. District redistribution.

[F. W. Francis, *Tāluk Settlement Reports: Malkāpur, Khāmgaon*, and *Jālgaon* (1892); *Chikhlī* (1896); and *Mehkar* (1898).]

Chikhlī Tāluk.—*Tāluk* of Buldāna District, Berār, lying between 20° and 20° 37′ N. and 75° 57′ and 76° 42′ E., with an area of 1,009 square miles. The population fell from 150,098 in 1891 to 129,590 in 1901, the density in the latter year being 128 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 269 villages and three towns: CHIKHLĪ (population, 5,889), the head-quarters, DEŪLGAON RĀJĀ (6,293), and BULDĀNA (4,137), the head-quarters of the District. The demand for land revenue in 1903-4 was Rs. 3,37,000, and for cesses Rs. 26,000. The *tāluk* lies entirely in the Bālāghāt or southern plateau of Berār, but contains a large proportion of fertile land, especially in the valleys of the streams, where wheat is cultivated with success.

Khāmgaon Subdivision.—Subdivision of Buldāna District, Berār, consisting of the *tāluks* of JĀLGAON and KHĀMGAON.

Jālgaon Tāluk.—*Tāluk* of Buldāna District, Berār, lying between 20° 65′ and 21° 13′ N. and 76° 23′ and 76° 48′ E., with an area of 410 square miles. The population fell from 97,798 in 1891 to 87,192 in 1901, the density in the latter year being 212 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 155 villages and one town, JĀLGAON (population, 8,487), the head-quarters. The demand for land revenue in 1903-4 was Rs. 3,54,000, and for cesses Rs. 28,000. Jālgaon, which is the smallest *tāluk* in Berār in respect of area and, except the Melghāt, of population also, lies entirely in the fertile valley of the Pūrna, which bounds it on the south. On the north it is bounded by the low hills of the western portion of the Gāwīlgarh range. Until August, 1905, when it was transferred to Buldāna, the *tāluk* formed part of Akola District.

Khāmgaon Tāluk.—*Tāluk* of Buldāna District, Berār, lying between 20° 26′ and 20° 55′ N. and 76° 32′ and 76° 48′ E., with an area of 443 square miles. The population rose from 99,785 in 1891 to 102,948 in 1901, the density in the latter

year being 232 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 134 villages and two towns, KHĀMGAON (population, 18,341), the head-quarters, and SHEGAON (15,057). The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 3,04,000, and for cesses Rs. 23,000. The Khāmgaon State Railway, connecting Khāmgaon with Jalam on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, lies within the *tāluk*, which is bounded on the east by the Mūn river and on the north by the Pūrna. The *tāluk* formerly belonged to Akola District, and was transferred to Buldāna in 1905.

Malkāpur Tāluk.—*Tāluk* of Buldāna District, Berār, lying between 20° 33′ and 21° 2′ N. and 76° 2′ and 76° 36′ E., with an area of 792 square miles. The population fell from 177,877 in 1891 to 173,234 in 1901, the density in the latter year being 219 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 288 villages and two towns, MALKĀPUR (population, 13,112), the head-quarters, and NĀNDŪRA (6,669). The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 5,24,000, and for cesses Rs. 41,000. Malkāpur lies in the fertile valley of the Pūrna, which bounds it on the north, while on the south it is bounded by the hills of the Bālāghāt.

Mehkar Tāluk.—Southern *tāluk* of Buldāna District, Berār, lying between 19° 52′ and 20° 25′ N. and 76° 2′ and 76° 52′ E., with an area of 1,008 square miles. The population fell from 153,046 in 1891 to 120,792 in 1901, the density in the latter year being 120 persons per square mile. The *tāluk* contains 313 villages and one town, MEHKAR (population, 5,330), the head-quarters. The demand for land revenue in 1903–4 was Rs. 2,73,000, and for cesses Rs. 21,000. The *tāluk* lies in the Bālāghāt, in the south-western corner of Berār; but the valleys of the Pengangā and the southern Pūrna, which traverse it, contain fertile tracts.

Buldāna Town.—Head-quarters of the District of the same name in Berār, situated in 20° 32′ N. and 76° 14′ E., 2,190 feet above sea-level. Population (1901), 4,137. The municipality was established in 1893. The income and expenditure from 1894 to 1901 averaged Rs. 12,000. In 1903–4 the income was Rs. 12,300, mainly derived from taxes and cesses; and the expenditure was Rs. 10,400, the principal heads being water-supply and education. The town owes what little importance it possesses to its selection as the head-quarters of a District.

Chikhlī Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Buldāna District, Berār, situated in 20° 21′ N. and 76° 18′ E. Population (1901), 5,889. Metalled roads run to Buldāna and Mehkar, and the town is a centre of local trade.

Deūlgaon Rājā.—Town in the Chikhlī *tāluk* of Buldāna District, Berār, situated in 20° 1′ N. and 76° 5′ E. Population (1901), 6,293. It derives its distinctive appellation from the Jādon Rājās of SINDKHED, by one of whom it was founded, and who built a temple of Bālājī, where an annual fair, the largest in Berār, is held in October.

Fathkhelda.—Village in the Mehkar *tāluk* of Buldāna District, Berār, situated in 20° 13′ N. and 76° 27′ E., on the small river Bhogāwatī, an affluent of the Pengangā. Population (1901), 4,198. The original name of the village was Shakarkhelda; but it was changed to Fathkhelda ('village of victory') by Asaf Jāh, to commemorate the victory gained here by him in 1724 over Mubāriz Khān, governor of Mālwā, who was slain on the field, a victory which established the virtual independence of the Nizām of Hyderābād. The village was sacked by Sindhia's troops in 1803 before Assaye, and suffered severely in a famine of that year. There is at Fathkhelda a handsome mosque, built by Khudāwand Khān the Mahdavī in 1581, which much resembles that at Rohankhed.

Jālgaon Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Buldāna District, Berār, situated in 21° 3′ N. and 76° 35′ E. Population (1901), 8,487. The town is sometimes called Jālgaon-Jāmod from a village near it, to distinguish it from Jālgaon in Khāndesh. It is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as a *pargana* town in the *sarkār* of Narnāla. It contains five ginning factories and a cotton market.

Khāmgaon Town.—Head-quarters of the subdivision and *tāluk* of the same name in Buldāna District, Berār, situated in 20° 43′ N. and 76° 38′ E. Population (1901), 18,341. Khāmgaon was the largest cotton market in Berār before Amraotī outstripped it. Its cotton trade dates from about the year 1820, when a few merchants opened shops and began to trade in *ghī*, raw thread, and a little cotton; and it now has several cotton-presses and ginning factories. A state railway, 8 miles in length, connects the town with the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Jalam station. The weekly market is held on Thursdays, and during the busy season it is very largely attended. The town has also a special cotton market. The municipality was created in 1867. The income and expenditure during the ten years ending 1901 averaged Rs. 35,000 and Rs. 39,000. In 1903-4 the income was Rs. 34,000, derived chiefly from taxes and cesses; and the expenditure was Rs. 25,000, the principal heads being conservancy and education. The town is supplied with water

from a tank about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, and several garde produce good oranges and vegetables.

Lonār.—Village in the Mekhar *tāluk* of Buldāna Distri Berār, situated in 19° 59′ N. and 76° 33′ E. Populati (1901), 3,085. It is a place of great antiquity, standing a hill amid undulating highlands, among which lies the s lake of Lonār, the fabled den of the demon-giant Lonāsi who was overcome in single combat by an incarnation Vishnu. The god assumed the form of a beautiful yout and, with the aid of the giant's two sisters, discovered h subterranean abode. With a single touch of his toe he thre off the lid of the den, and found the giant sleeping on h couch. A hill near Dhākephal, about 36 miles south-west Lonār, is said to be the lid of the lake thrown off by Vishn and to coincide in shape and size with the top of the lak Lonāsūr was buried in the den or hollow now occupied b the great lake, the water of which is supposed to be the giant blood. Lonār has ever since been held in great veneration.

The view of the lake is very striking. It is surrounded b a circular ridge of hills about 400 feet high, among which ar several old temples and ruins of other monuments. From a crevice on the southern ridge flows an ample spring of swe water, with a temple at the fountain head. This temple is th finest specimen of Hemādpanti architecture in Berār. Th hollow is very nearly circular, a little more than a mile i diameter and from 300 to 400 feet deep. At the bottom lie a shallow lake of water, without any apparent outlet, and charge with sodium chloride and sodium carbonate. The sides of th hollow to the north and north-east are absolutely level with th surrounding country, while on the other sides there is a raise rim, from 40 to 100 feet in height, composed of irregularl piled blocks of basalt similar to that which forms the horizonta sheets of lava around. The most plausible explanation fo this peculiar hollow is that which ascribes it to a violent gaseou explosion, which must have occurred long after the eruption o the Deccan traps, and in comparatively recent times. Simila explosion-craters occur in the Lower Chindwin District i Upper Burma. Lonār is described in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* where it is mentioned that the Brāhmans call the place Bishar (Vishnu) Gayā.

Malkāpur Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Buldāna District, Berār, situated in 20° 53′ N. and 76° 15′ E., on the Nalgangā, a tributary of the Pūrna, at an elevation of 900 feet, with a station on the Nāgpur branch of

the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 308 miles from Bombay and 213 from Nāgpur. Population (1901), 13,112. Two *bands* or dams cross the Nalgangā here, one of which is said to have been constructed about two hundred years ago to facilitate communication with the *peth* or suburb, and the other about fifty years later to fill the town ditch with water and thus protect it from surprise by marauders. A dilapidated rampart of dressed stone with five gates and twenty-eight bastions surrounds the town, which is divided into four principal quarters. One of the gates bears on it an inscription, to the effect that it was erected in 1729 during the rule of Muhammad Maāli Khān. Malkāpur is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as the head-quarters of a *pargana* in the *sarkār* of Narnāla. The town is said to have been founded about four hundred and fifty years ago by a prince of the Fārūki house of Khāndesh, and to have been named by him after the princess (*malika*) his daughter; but the story is improbable, for we have no record of any journey in this direction by Mīrān Ghanī Adil Khān, the Fārūki prince of the period. In 1761 the town was rich enough to pay Rs. 60,000 to the army of Raghunāth Rao Peshwā, for exemption from plunder. The Nizāms used to keep a force of about 20,000 men in this frontier district of their dominions. Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghujī Bhonsla were encamped near Malkāpur when the British envoy, Colonel Collins, after presenting General Wellesley's ultimatum, quitted Sindhia's camp on August 3, 1803. Malkāpur was the scene of several petty battles between *zamīndārs*, rival *tālukdārs*, Rājputs, and Musalmāns during the period between the beginning of the nineteenth century and the Assignment of Berār. A subordinate civil court is established at Malkāpur, which also contains a *tahsīl*, a courthouse, schools, a dispensary, and some ginning factories. A mosque near the *kāzī's* house is said to be older than the town.

Mehkar Town.—Head-quarters of the *tāluk* of the same name in Buldāna District, Berār, situated in 20° 10′ N. and 76° 37′ E. Population (1901), 5,330. According to a legend, it takes its name from Meghan Kara, a demon who was overpowered and slain by Sārangdhar, an incarnation of Vishnu. A Muhammadan poet informs us that Mehkar is 795 years older than the Hijrī era. A fine specimen of a Hemādpanti temple is situated here. Mehkar is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as the head-quarters of a *sarkār*, or revenue district. In 1769 Mādhu Rao Peshwā, accompanied by Rukn-ud-daula, the Nizām's minister, encamped here with the intention of

punishing Jānojī Bhonsla, who had assisted Raghunāth Rao's insurrection. General Doveton also encamped here in 1817 on his march to Nāgpur against Appa Sāhib Bhonsla, who had broken the Treaty of Deogaon. Mehkar formerly contained many weavers, Hindu and Muhammadan. The latter were so rich that they not only undertook to fortify the place, but could afford to build up the fallen rampart, as appears from an inscription dated 1488 on the Mūmins' Gate, still standing. Pindāri inroads reduced the town to great distress, and its ruin was completed by the great famine of 1803, after which only 50 huts remained inhabited. Excellent *dhotīs* were formerly woven at Mehkar, but the cheapness of European fabrics has lessened the demand for these.

Nāndūra.—Town in the Malkāpur *tāluk* of Buldāna District, Berār, situated in 20° 49′ N. and 76° 31′ E., with a station on the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 324 miles from Bombay. Population (1901), 6,669. The town, which consists of Nāndūra Buzurg and Nāndūra Khurd, divided by the Dayangangā river, was largely populated by dyers fleeing from the depredations of Mahādjī Sindhia in the *pargana* of Pimpalgaon Rājā in 1790.

Rohankhed.—Village in the Malkāpur *tāluk* of Buldāna District, Berār, situated in 20° 37′ N. and 76° 11′ E., immediately below the Bālāghāt plateau. Population (1901), 2,130. The village has been the scene of two battles. In 1437 Nasīr Khān, Sultān of Khāndesh, invaded Berār to avenge the ill-treatment of his daughter by Alā-ud-dīn Bahmani, to whom she had been married. Khalaf Hasan Basri, governor of Daulatābād, who had been sent against the invader, fell upon Nasīr Khān at Rohankhed, routed him, and pursued him to his capital, Burhānpur, which he sacked. In 1590 Burhān, a prince of the Ahmadnagar dynasty, who had taken refuge in the Mughal empire, invaded Berār in company with Rājā Alī Khān, vassal ruler of Khāndesh, to establish his claim to the kingdom of Ahmadnagar against his son Ismail, who had been elevated to the throne by a faction headed by Jamāl Khān. The invaders met the forces of Jamāl Khān at Rohankhed and utterly defeated them, Jamāl Khān being slain and the young Ismail captured. At Rohankhed there is a small but handsome mosque, built in 1582 by Khudāwand Khān the Mahdavī, a follower of Jamāl Khān. This Khudāwand Khān is not to be confused with Khudāwand Khān the Habshī, who was governor of Māhū a century earlier.

Shegaon.—Town in the Khāmgaon *tāluk* of Buldāna

District, Berār, situated in 20° 48′ N. and 76° 45′ E., with a station on the Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 340 miles from Bombay and 180 from Nāgpur. Population (1901), 15,057. The town is an important centre of the cotton trade, and contains many presses and ginning factories. The municipality was constituted in 1881. The incomes and expenditure during the ten years ending 1901 each averaged Rs. 9,000. In 1903–4 the income was Rs. 14,300, mainly derived from taxes; and the expenditure was Rs. 9,000, the principal heads being conservancy and administration.

Sindkhed.—Village in the Mehkar *tāluk* of Buldāna District, Berār, situated in 19° 57′ N. and 76° 10′ E. Population (1901), 2,711. The *pargana* of Sindkhed was granted in *jāgīr* to the *kāzī* of the town about 1450; and he afterwards gave it voluntarily to the famous Marāthā family of Jādon or Jādav, the most famous member of which was Lakhjī. Lakhjī was, according to one account, a Rājput from Kurwāli in Hindustān, but the family also claimed descent from the Yādava Rājās of Deogiri. Lakhjī obtained a command of 10,000 horse under the Ahmadnagar government, but afterwards espoused the Mughal cause, receiving a command of 15,000 horse in the imperial army. He was entrapped by Mālojī Bhonsla into giving his daughter in marriage to Shāhjī, and she thus became the mother of Sivajī. Notwithstanding this connexion, the Jādons were, except on one occasion, steady imperialists throughout the wars between Mughal and Marāthā, and held high rank in the imperial army. The representatives of the family are now settled at Kingaon Rājā; but they lost their possessions in 1851, owing to an act of rebellion by Arab troops under their command.

The temple of Nīlkantheshwar to the south-west of the village is the oldest structure traditionally assigned to Hemād Pant. Several fine buildings attest the former magnificence and prosperity of the place. Sindkhed was held by Sindhia for nearly sixty years, and was restored to the Nizām in 1803. In 1804 General Wellesley wrote: 'Sindkhed is a nest of thieves; the situation of this country is shocking; the people are starving in hundreds, and there is no government to afford the slightest relief.' Bajī Rao Peshwā encamped at Sindkhed for some days in 1818, when the British troops were on his track. The decline of the place was hastened by marauders, whose names—Mohan Singh, Budlam Shāh, and Ghāzi Khān—were long remembered with terror.

Boundaries, configuration, and hill and river systems.

Ellichpur District (*Elichpur*).—District of Berār, lying between 20° 50′ and 21° 47′ N. and 76° 40′ and 77° 54′ E., with an area of 2,605 square miles, which in 1905 was added to Amraoti District. It was bounded on the north-west and north by the Tāpti river and the Betūl District of the Central Provinces; on the east by Amraotī; on the south by the Pūrna river and the Akot and Jalgaon *tāluks*; and on the west by the Nimar District of the Central Provinces. The area contains two entirely distinct natural divisions: the Melghāt *tāluk*, situated in the GĀWĪLGARH hill ranges, and the *tāluks* of Ellichpur and Daryāpur, situated in the Pāyānghāt, or central valley of Berār. The scenery of these two tracts is described generally in the article on BERĀR. That portion of the District which lies in the plains is generally better wooded than the rest of the Pāyānghāt; and at the base of the hills the soil is stony, and the country is cut up by streams and small rivers which are liable to freshes in the rainy season. The blue range of hills relieves the scenery from the monotony which characterizes the landscape in other parts of the Pāyānghāt.

The river system consists of streams which rise in the Gāwīlgarh Hills, and flow either northwards into the Tāpti or southwards into the Pūrna, which is itself a tributary of the Tāpti and drains the central valley of Berār. Towards the hot season all these streams dry up, save in parts where *dohos* hold a supply of water which lasts throughout the dry months of the year. These *dohos*, which are natural cavities worn out of the solid rock by the rush of water from above, are found chiefly in the hills. Lower down the water lies in large sheets.

Geology.

The geology of that portion of the District which lies in the Pāyānghāt is described in the article on BERĀR. Here the Deccan trap is covered with a layer of alluvial black loam, which is everywhere, except at the base of the hills, of considerable depth. The Gāwīlgarh Hills are formed chiefly of compact basalt, very much resembling that of the Giant's Causeway. It is found columnar in many places; and at Gāwīlgarh it appears stratified, the summits of several hills presenting a continued stratum of many thousand yards in length. The basalt frequently and suddenly changes into a wacke, of all degrees of induration, and of every variety of composition usually found among trap rock.

Botany.

The forest vegetation of the Melghāt *tāluk* will be noticed under the head of Forests. In the plains and at the foot of the hills, the commonest trees are the tamarind, the *mahuā*, the mango, the *babūl*, and the *hiwar*. The weedy vegetation

of cultivated lands resembles that of Central India and the Deccan. In the Melghāt orchids are fairly common; and, owing to the heavier rainfall, the ground vegetation is more luxuriant and more varied in colour than that of the plains. Wild balsams and other flowering plants are common.

Fauna. The hill forests contain tigers, leopards, bears, bison, *sāmbar*, barking-deer, and spotted deer. Peafowl abound, and the grey jungle-fowl (*Gallus sonneratii*) and spur-fowl are common. The plains are now so covered with cultivation that game is scarce. Hog, *nīlgai*, gazelle, and antelope are, however, found. Of monkeys there are two kinds: the *langūr*, found in both the plains and the hills; and the small red monkey, found only in the hills.

Climate and temperature. The climate of the two *tāluks* in the plains resembles that of the rest of the Berār valley; but the country immediately under the hills is, as is usual in such tracts in India, malarious and unhealthy. The same may be said of the valleys of the Melghāt. On the higher plateaux of the Gāwīlgarh Hills the climate is pleasant and temperate throughout the year, the mean temperature at the sanitarium of Chikalda in May, July, and December being 85·5°, 74·5°, and 65°.

Rainfall. The Melghāt receives more rain than any other tract in the province. The average for the six years ending 1901, which included two years of deficient rainfall, was 65 inches. The rainfall in the plains does not vary from that recorded elsewhere in the Berār valley. The rainfall at Ellichpur in 1901, which may be taken as a normal year, was just short of 26 inches.

History. The history of the District centres in that of Ellichpur, the chief town, and the old fortress of Gāwīlgarh. Until the Assignment in 1853, when Amraotī became the administrative head-quarters of the province, Ellichpur was always regarded as the capital of Berār, although during Akbar's wars with Ahmadnagar, in the latter part of the sixteenth century, Bālāpur, in Akola District, became, on account of its position, the head-quarters of the imperial army of the Deccan.

Ellichpur was included, immediately after the Assignment, in the District of East Berār, the head-quarters of which were at Amraotī; but in 1867 it was separated from Amraotī and became a District under the charge of a Deputy-Commissioner. Ellichpur at first included the *tāluk* of Morsi, which was, however, after a short time, retransferred to Amraotī.

Archaeology. The District contains some of the most interesting archaeological remains in Berār, which are described in the articles on ELLICHPUR TOWN and GĀWĪLGARH. They consist of the Gāwīl-

garh fort with its buildings, especially the large mosque (1425), the Pīr Fath, or south-western gate (1488), and the bastion of Bahrām (1577). The shrine at Ellichpur, which bears the name of the mythical hero, Shāh Abdur Rahmān, is probably the tomb of Fīroz Shāh Bahmani's general, who was slain at Kherla in 1400. There is an old building at Ellichpur, locally known as Bārkul. It is believed that it dates from the time of the Khiljī Sultāns of Delhi, and its name is said to be a corruption of *bārgāh-i-kull*, or 'hall of public audience.'

The people. The number of towns and villages in the District is 794. The population at each of the last enumerations has been: (1867) 278,629, (1881) 313,412, (1891) 315,616, and (1901) 297,403. The decline in 1901, which was due to the famine of 1899–1900, does not entirely represent actual diminution of population, but is partly accounted for by the northward emigration of Korkūs from the Melghāt into the Central Provinces. The District was divided into the three *tāluks* of ELLICHPUR, DARYĀPUR, and MELGHĀT. The head-quarters of the first two are at the places from which they take their names, and of the last at CHIKALDA. The six towns are ELLICHPUR TOWN, PARATWĀDA (the civil station), ANJANGAON, KARASGAON, SIRASGAON, and CHĀNDŪR BĀZĀR.

The following table gives, for each *tāluk*, particulars of area, towns and villages, and population in 1901:—

Tāluk.	Area in square miles.	Number of Towns.	Number of Villages.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
Ellichpur	469	5	214	146,035	311	− 0.2	9,958
Daryāpur	505	1	244	114,698	227	− 15.5	5,723
Melghāt	1,631	...	330	36,670	22	− 6.2	580
District total	2,605	6	788	297,403	114	− 7.0	16,261

Ellichpur is the most densely, and Melghāt, with a population of no more than 22 to the square mile, the most sparsely populated *tāluk* in Berār. More than 78 per cent. of the population are Hindus. The vernacular of the District is Marāthī, but Urdū is more commonly spoken than in other Districts, owing to the influence of the Muhammadan town of Ellichpur. The Korkūs of the hills have their own language, which is a Mundā dialect; and the small and rapidly disappearing tribe of Nihāls formerly spoke a language of their own which is believed, though on insufficient authority, to have

exhibited Dravidian affinities. They now speak Korkū and the Nihālī language is probably completely lost.

Castes and occupations.

Kunbīs (68,000) are by far the most numerous caste in the District. Next to them in numbers come Mahārs (36,000), Musalmāns (30,000), Korkūs (25,000), and Mālīs (25,000). Brāhmans number no more than 7,700. Ethnologically, the Korkūs and the Nihāls (1,800) are the most interesting tribes in the District. The Gāwīlgarh Hills are the home of both. The former are a tribe of hill and forest men speaking a Mundā dialect; and the latter are a rapidly disappearing tribe, who seem to have held, in comparatively recent times, the position of helots among the Korkūs, though it may be doubted whether they were always subordinate to them. Ellichpur is mainly an agricultural District; but the proportion (67 per cent.) of those who live by agriculture to the whole population is lower than in any other District in the province, and the percentage of those who live by industries (16) is higher.

Christian missions.

There are two Christian missions: one of the Roman Church, under the management of the Order of St. Francis of Sales, and the Korkū and Central Indian Hill Mission, which is a Protestant mission. Both did excellent work in the two recent famines in the Melghāt. The Roman Catholic mission owns a small village, Mariampur, near Chikalda. Of the 363 Christians enumerated in 1901, 285 were natives, of whom 215 were Roman Catholics.

General agricultural conditions.

The Melghāt differs as much from the rest of the District in agricultural conditions as it does in climate and altitude. Agricultural conditions in the plains are similar to those prevailing throughout the Berār valley. Here the soil is a rich black loam of considerable depth, except in the tract at the base of the hills, which is principally forest land. In the hills the soil, except in the valleys, is poorer and shallower than in the plains, and the country is chiefly covered with forests; but where cultivation is found, the heavier rainfall compensates in some measure for the comparative poverty of the soil.

Chief agricultural statistics and principal crops.

The tenures are almost entirely *ryotwāri*. *Jāgīr*, *ijāra*, and *inām* lands, which are found chiefly in the Melghāt, cover only 124½ square miles out of 2,617. The chief agricultural statistics in 1903-4 are shown below, in square miles:—

Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Cultivable waste.	Forest.
2,617	1,085¼	5	46	1,389

The staple food-grain is *jowār* or great millet, varied in the hills by *kodo* (*Paspalum frumentaceum*) and *rāl* (*Panicum sativum*). The area under *jowār* was 286 square miles, and 'other cereals,' including *kodo* and *rāl*, occupied 26½ square miles in the hills. Rice and wheat were formerly grown in the Melghāt more extensively than at present; in 1903–4 they occupied only 3⅔ and 7 square miles. The latter covered 77 square miles in the plains. The areas under cotton, pulses, and oilseeds were 496, 85, and 45 square miles. These crops, except pulses, which occupy nearly equal areas in the hills and the plains, are grown chiefly in the plains. It has been said that the tea plant thrives on the higher plateaux of the Melghāt, but it is not grown there now. Excellent coffee is grown in private gardens at Chikalda, but its cultivation on a large scale has not been attempted.

Improvements in agricultural practice.

The extension of the area of holdings has amounted to only 4.6 per cent. in the last thirty-three years. There is, however, no room for extension in the plains, where practically the whole of the arable land is already occupied. In the hills a considerable area has gone out of cultivation since the famine of 1899–1900. It is not likely that cultivation will ever be much extended in this tract, more than 85 per cent. of which is forest. Little or nothing has been done towards the improvement of agricultural products. On the contrary, the fine, long-stapled cotton for which Berār was formerly famous has practically disappeared, its place being taken by a coarser, short-stapled variety which is more prolific and demands less attention than the old variety. The ryots have availed themselves less freely of the Loans Acts than those of any District in Berār, except Wūn, where famine has been less severe than elsewhere. During the three years following the famine of 1899–1900 not more than Rs. 72,000 was disbursed, and it is only since that year that the people have applied for advances.

Cattle, &c.

The Umarda, or smaller variety of the Berāri breed of cattle, was formerly the principal breed in the District; but since recent years of scarcity and famine large numbers of animals of the Nimāri, Hoshangābādi, and Mālwi breeds have been imported. Buffaloes are principally of the Nāgpuri breed, but a few of the Mālwi breed have been imported. Ponies bred locally are weedy animals of little value; and sheep and goats are poor, except in the larger towns, where good milch goats of the Gujarāti breed are kept.

Irrigation.

The area irrigated in 1903–4 was less than 5 square miles, of which nearly all was watered from wells and was situated in

the *tāluks* in the plains. Irrigation is almost entirely confined to chillies, garden produce, and tobacco. Leathern buckets drawn with a rope and pulley by cattle working down an inclined plane are universally used for lifting the water.

Forests cover 56 per cent. of the whole District, and their area is about twice as great as in any other District of Berār. About half the area is real forest land, as distinguished from *ramnas* and grazing lands with patches of scrub and small trees which usually make up the greater part of the technical forest area. All the forests, except 38 square miles of grazing land and 95 acres of *ramna*, are confined to the Melghāt. They contain the usual trees of Central India, the commonest being *Boswellia*, teak, *Ougeinia*, *Adina*, *Stephegyne*, *Schreibera*, and various species of *Terminalia*. The woody climbers met with are species of *Bauhinia*, *Combretum*, and *Millettia*. In ravines and valleys a bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) occurs. Forests.

Arts and manufactures are unimportant, as in other Districts of Berār. Cotton and silk fabrics are woven and dyed, principally at Anjangaon, and cotton carpets are woven at Ellichpur. The largest industry is the preparation of cotton for the market, and the District contains ten ginning factories and one press, all worked by steam. Arts and manufactures.

The chief exports are raw cotton, grain and pulse, oilseeds, and forest produce; and the chief imports are grain and pulse, salt, and sugar. The cotton, grain and pulse, and oilseeds are sent from Ellichpur by road to Amraotī or Badnera, whence they are dispatched by rail to Bombay; and exports from Daryāpur go by road to Murtazāpur on the railway. Commerce.

There is no railway in the District. The total length of metalled roads is 73 miles, and of unmetalled roads 40 miles. The former are in charge of the Public Works department and the latter of the District board. The principal road is the Chikalda-Amraotī road, which passes through Ellichpur town, and has a length in the District of 49 miles. An important road from Ellichpur to Daryāpur via Anjangaon is under construction. Roads.

The two *tāluks* in the plains are neither more nor less fortunate than the rest of Berār in respect of their liability to famine, and they have suffered from all famines which have fallen upon the province. A famine orphan school was established at Ellichpur by the fifth Sultān of the Bahmani dynasty, Muhammad (sometimes, but erroneously, called Mahmūd) Shāh, who reigned from 1378 to 1397, and in whose time a severe famine occurred. The emperor Shāh Jahān also, in Famine.

the fourth year of his reign, established a poorhouse at Ellichpur, where food was distributed to the famine-stricken. Sir William Sleeman, in his *Rambles and Recollections*[1], mentions that Ellichpur suffered from the famine of 1837–8. The Melghāt is, owing to the comparative poverty of its soil and the thriftlessness of the Korkū cultivator, far more liable to famine. In 1896–7, when the greater part of Berār suffered only from scarcity, famine conditions prevailed here, and in the famine of 1899–1900 the *tāluk* suffered very severely. At the height of the distress, in July, 1900, 25,216 persons were on relief works and 33,194 in receipt of gratuitous relief in the District; and it is estimated that 60 per cent. of the cattle died. In both famines the Forest department rendered signal service.

District subdivisions and staff.

The District is divided into the three *tāluks* of ELLICHPUR, DARYĀPUR, and MELGHĀT, at the head-quarters of each of which there is a *tahsīldār*; and since 1905 Ellichpur and Melghāt have formed a subdivision of Amraotī District. The superior staff of the District consists of the usual officers.

Civil and criminal justice.

In Ellichpur, as in other Districts of Berār, the Deputy-Commissioner was the District Judge; but here he was District Judge in more than name, for he exercised, and was not empowered to delegate, the ordinary original civil powers of a District Judge in the Melghāt, where the *tahsīldār* exercises the powers of a subordinate civil judge. The existing machinery for the administration of justice is described in the article on AMRAOTĪ DISTRICT. Serious crime is not common, but dacoities, cattle-thefts, and burglaries fluctuate considerably in numbers with the state of the season. The Korkūs, though behind other classes of the population in education, and somewhat addicted to strong drink, exhibit no marked criminal propensities.

Land revenue.

According to the *Aīn-i-Akbarī*, the land revenue demand in the *parganas* which till lately formed Ellichpur District amounted to 13·2 lakhs; and at the time of the Assignment in 1853 the demand in the same area had fallen to 5·6 lakhs, owing to wars, maladministration, and famines. In 1903–4 the assessment on all land available for cultivation amounted to 12·4 lakhs, or rather less than Akbar's assessment, though it is certain that cultivation is more extended now than it was in the sixteenth century. The two *tāluks* in the plains were first surveyed and assessed, after the Assignment, between the years 1868 and 1873, the settlement being made in each case

[1] Vol. i, p. 190 (ed. 1893).

for thirty years. Before its expiration revised assessment lists were prepared, but the new rates were not introduced until 1903–4. The assessment per acre varies from Rs. 2–11 to 2 annas, with an average of Rs. 1–11–3. Rice land is assessed at a maximum rate of Rs. 6 per acre, and land irrigated from streams and tanks, of which the area is only 23 acres, at a maximum combined land and water rate of Rs. 8 per acre. Land irrigated from wells sunk before the original settlement is assessed at the maximum 'dry' rate for land in the same village; but where wells have been made subsequently the cultivator is allowed the full advantage of the improvement, and the land is treated in all respects as 'dry' land. The average extent of a holding in the plains is 14¾ acres. The Melghāt has never been regularly surveyed, and a system of assessment is in force based on the number of yokes (pairs of bullocks) employed. The maximum, minimum, and average rates per yoke are Rs. 8, Rs. 3, and Rs. 5. As a measure of relief, following on the famine of 1899–1900, one-half of the land revenue was remitted for a period of three years in this *tāluk*.

Collections on account of land revenue and revenue from all sources have been, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880–1.	1890–1.	1900–1.	1903–4.
Land revenue . . .	9,16	9,19	10,42	11,28
Total revenue . .	12,50	13,37	14,16	15,66

Beyond the two municipal areas of Ellichpur town and civil station, the local affairs of that portion of the District which lies in the plains are administered by the District board, with the two *tāluk* boards subordinate to it. The expenditure of these boards in 1903–4 amounted to Rs. 87,000, of which Rs. 14,000 was spent on education, and Rs. 41,000 on public works, chiefly roads and buildings. The chief sources of income were Provincial rates, the bazar cess, and assessed taxes. The local affairs of the Melghāt are managed by the Deputy-Commissioner and the *tahsīldār*. Local boards.

The District Superintendent has control over the police under the Deputy-Commissioner. The number of police stations is 15, and there are four outposts. The police force numbers 367, under three inspectors, one for each *tāluk*. The only jail in the District is that at Ellichpur, which contained in 1903–4 a daily average of 27 prisoners. Police and jails.

Ellichpur stands first among the six Districts of Berār in Education.

regard to the literacy of its population, of whom 5·4 per cent. (10·4 males and 0·3 females) were able to read and write in 1891. Its superiority would be still more marked but for the Melghāt, which in point of education is more backward than any other part of the province. In 1903–4 the District contained 79 public, 65 aided, 5 unaided, and 4 private schools, with a total of 7,738 pupils, of whom 5,950 attended public schools and 334 were girls. One secondary and nine primary schools were Hindustāni schools for Muhammadan boys, five were girls' schools—three for Hindus and two for Muhammadans—and two were schools for children of aboriginal tribes in the Melghāt. All schools, except nine, were aided from public funds. The great majority of pupils under instruction were only in primary classes, and no girls had advanced beyond that stage. Of the male population of school-going age 13 per cent. were in the primary stage of instruction, and of the female population of the same age 0·75 per cent. Among Musalmāns the percentage of pupils of each sex to the male and female population of school-going age was 24 and 2·6. At the two special schools in the Melghāt, 34 aborigines were under instruction. The total expenditure on education in 1903–4 was Rs. 57,268, of which Rs. 5,575 was provided from Local and municipal funds.

Hospitals and dispensaries.

The District possesses 3 hospitals and 4 dispensaries, containing accommodation for 79 in-patients. In 1903 the number of cases treated was 47,000, of whom 603 were in-patients, and 1,533 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 15,000, the greater part of which was met from Provincial revenues.

Vaccination.

Vaccination has made much progress, and the people generally seem to be aware of its usefulness. In 1903–4 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 31·7 per 1,000, the mean for the province being 36·6. Vaccination is compulsory only in the two municipalities.

District redistribution.

In August, 1905, when the six Districts of Berār were reconstituted, Ellichpur ceased to exist as a separate District and was incorporated in AMRAOTĪ, of which District it now forms the Ellichpur subdivision.

[*Tāluk Settlement Reports*: Major R. V. Garrett, *Daryāpur* (1897); F. W. Francis, *Ellichpur* (1898); C. Bagshaw, *Melghāt* (1899).]

Boundaries, configuration, and hill

Bāsim District (or Wāshim in Marāthī).—District in Berār, lying between 19° 25′ and 20° 28′ N. and 76° 40′ and 78° 14′ E., with an area of 2,949 square miles. In 1905 this District

ceased to exist, its component *tāluks* being divided between Akola and Yeotmāl. It was bounded on the north by Akola and Amraotī Districts; on the east by Wūn District; on the south by the Pengangā river and the Hyderābād State; and on the west by Buldāna District.

and river systems.

The District is situated in the Bālāghāt of Berār, the table-land on the south of the Pūrna valley. The Bāsim *tāluk*, the most westerly, consists of a rich table-land of the average height of about 1,000 feet above sea-level, sloping down towards the west and south to the fertile valley of the Pengangā. The other two *tāluks*, Mangrūl and Pusad, are mainly a succession of low hills covered with poor grass, the formation being trap. The soil of the hollows between the hills is usually of the best quality. Many of the hill peaks rise to a height of 2,000 feet, and along the ranges of the Pusad *tāluk* stretch wide slopes of woodland, containing some teak. The scenery of the more hilly portions of the District is fine, especially in the rains and the early part of the cold season, when the hills are still covered with vegetation and the grass has not been burnt yellow by the sun.

The principal river is the Pengangā, which, except in one corner of the Bāsim *tāluk*, forms the boundary between the District and the Nizām's Dominions. Entering the District near Wākad on the west, it flows in a south-easterly direction as far as the south-eastern corner of the Pusad *tāluk*. It then takes a sharp turn and flows in a north-westerly direction, resuming its original course, after another sudden bend, close to Māhūr in the Nizām's Dominions. The Pūs is the principal affluent of the Pengangā in this District. It rises near Bāsim town and flows in a south-easterly direction through the Pusad *tāluk*, joining the Pengangā at Sangam, after a course of 64 miles. The Kāta Pūrna runs from its source nearly due north until it reaches the slopes of the Bālāghāt, where it inclines eastward, entering Akola District near Mahān. Other insignificant streams are the Arān, Kūch, Adol, and Chandrabhāga, all tributaries of the Pengangā.

Geology.

The whole District, like the greater part of the Bālāghāt, is covered with flows of Deccan trap, which were erupted at about the end of the Cretaceous times, the volcanic activity lasting, probably, till the beginning of the Tertiary period. The trap is covered, on the Bāsim plateau and also in the valleys, with black loam. Iron ore is found in the high lands, but probably not in workable quantities.

Botany.

The commonest trees in cultivated lands are the *babūl*, the

pīpal, the mango, the tamarind, and the *mahuā*. Forests will be noticed separately. The weed vegetation is that chiefly characteristic of the Deccan, including many small *Compositae* and *Leguminosae*.

Fauna.

Tigers, leopards, bears, wild hog, antelope, *nīlgai*, spotted deer, and gazelle are fairly common; and the wild dog (*Cyon dakhunensis*), the jackal, the wolf, and the hunting leopard (*Cynaelurus jubatus*) are also found in the District.

Climate and temperature.

The hot season is less severe than in the Pāyānghāt. The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer in May, July, and December, 1901, a normal year, were 114° and 84°, 86° and 76°, and 77° and 68°. The climate is fairly uniform, but slightly higher temperatures are experienced in the river valleys. The hot season is intensely dry, and therefore healthy; the weather in the rains is usually cool and pleasant, and the cold season is temperate and healthy.

Rainfall.

The rainfall, which is uniform throughout the District, exceeds the rainfall in the Pāyānghāt. In 1901, a normal year, nearly 41 inches were registered. The Pengangā sometimes rises, but no serious damage has ever been done by such floods; and the District has been fortunate in escaping serious natural calamities other than famine.

History.

Bāsim never existed as a separate political entity, and its history is chiefly bound up with that of the province of which it has always formed part. In the days of the Mughal empire Bāsim was the head-quarters of a *sarkār*, or revenue district, which extended on both sides of the Pengangā, and the *Ain-i-Akbarī* makes mention of the Hatgars or Bargi Dhangars ('shepherd spearmen') inhabiting the hills north of the Pengangā. They were proud and refractory, and possessed a force of 1,000 cavalry and 5,000 infantry. These highland chiefs owned little more than nominal allegiance to the lowland rulers, whether Hindu or Musalmān, and thus they continued until the establishment of British rule. In 1671 the District was plundered by Pratāp Rao, one of Sivajī's generals. In 1795, after the battle of Kardla, the *pargana* of Umarkhed, with other territory elsewhere, was ceded by the Nizām to the Peshwā; and in 1818 Bājī Rao Peshwā, after the rout of Siwni, fled through Umarkhed before Sir John Doveton, whom he contrived to elude. In 1819 the Hatgar Naiks of the District broke the peace, and Naosajī Naik Muskī gave battle to the Hyderābād Contingent troops under Major Pitman at Umarkhed. He was driven into his stronghold of Nowah, which was gallantly carried by assault, and the Naik was sent to Hyderābād, where he died. After

the Peshwā's downfall the Umarkhed *pargana* was transferred by the East India Company to the Nizām. In 1858 a gang of plundering Rohillas were pursued by a detachment of the Hyderābād Contingent into the village of Chichambā, near Risod, where, behind walls, they resisted an assault by the fatigued troops, in which Captain Mackinnon was killed.

On the Assignment, in 1853, when Berār was divided into two Districts, Bāsim was included in West Berār, and soon afterwards became the head-quarters of a subdivision. In 1868 the subdivisional officer was made independent of the Deputy-Commissioner at Akola, and in 1875 the subdivision was formed into a District under the charge of a Deputy-Commissioner.

Archaeology. The temple of Antariksha Pārsvanātha at SIRPUR, in the Bāsim *tāluk*, belonging to the Digambara Jain community, is the most interesting monument of the past in the District. An old tank at Bāsim is known as the Padma Tīrtha, but the date of its construction cannot be ascertained. Pusad has two very fine Hemādpanti temples.

The people. The number of towns and villages in the District in 1901 was 827. The population rose between 1867 and 1891, and then declined. The number at the four enumerations was as follows: (1867) 276,646, (1881) 358,883, (1891) 398,181, and (1901) 353,410. There has thus been a net increase of 76,764 since 1867. The great decrease during the last decade was due to the scarcity of 1896–7, the famine of 1899–1900, and mortality from epidemic disease. The District included the three *tāluks* of BĀSIM, MANGRŪL, and PUSAD, each named after their head-quarters, which are also the only three towns.

The following table gives particulars of area, towns and villages, and population in 1901:—

Tāluk.	Area in square miles.	Number of Towns.	Number of Villages.	Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
Bāsim	1,046	1	324	153,320	147	− 13·5	4,193
Mangrūl	630	1	202	91,062	144	+ 10·4	1,767
Pusad	1,273	1	298	109,028	86	− 24·6	2,816
District total	2,949	3	824	353,410	120	− 11·2	8,776

Bāsim stood fourth among the Districts of Berār as regards the density of its population (120 persons per square mile).

More than 92 per cent. of the people are Hindus. The language usually spoken is Marāthī, but the Musalmāns use a corrupt dialect of Urdū, which is generally understood by all.

Castes and occupations.

In Bāsim, as in all other Districts of Berār, the Kunbīs (110,000) are more numerous than any other caste; the Mahārs (59,700) come second, the Musalmāns (22,800) third, and the Banjārās (21,400) fourth, being more numerous than in any other District in the province, except Wūn. Dhangars number 14,600, Mālīs 12,500, Brāhmans only 7,700, and Telis 7,600. The Hatgars, specially mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as an important tribe in the *sarkār* of Bāsim, now number only 577, and are, strangely enough, less numerous here than in any District in Berār, except Amraotī and Ellichpur. The Banjārās in the *sarkār* of Bāsim are mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as being under the headship of a woman; and it is known, from the change of surname among the local Naiks, who have their head-quarters at Narsī, in the Parbhani District of the Hyderābād State, that the office has descended at least once in the female line. The figures for castes, given above, clearly indicate the principal occupation of the people. The District is essentially an agricultural one, over 76 per cent. of its population living by the land. The percentage of the industrial population is 11.

Christian missions.

There is only one Christian mission, which is supported by the American Episcopal Methodist body, and has its head-quarters at Bāsim. Of 229 Christians enumerated in the District in 1901, 212 were natives.

General agricultural conditions.

The Bāsim *tāluk* is a rich table-land, the trap-flows being here covered with a layer of black cotton soil of varying but nearly always sufficient depth. This layer is deeper in the valley of the Pengangā than elsewhere, the conditions of this area being not dissimilar from those of the Pāyānghāt. The surface of the Mangrūl *tāluk* is more broken; but here too the soil is rich and of good quality, except on the hills. Pusad consists principally of a succession of low waste hills, the soil of which is often too poor to support anything but grass of an inferior quality; but in the hollows between the hills, and in the Pengangā valley, which is, however, very narrow here, the soil is rich and fertile. Cultivation depends almost entirely upon the south-west monsoon.

Chief agricultural statistics and principal crops.

Almost the whole area is held *ryotwāri*; *ijāra*, *jāgīr*, and *pālampat* villages cover only 33 square miles. The principal statistics relating to the land in 1903–4 are as follows, in square miles:—

Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Cultivable waste.	Forest.
2,959	2,037	6	32	721

The staple food-grain is great millet (*jowār*), the area under which in 1903-4 was 822 square miles. Cotton, the most profitable crop, occupied 532 square miles, and the other important crops are wheat and oilseeds, which occupied 108 and 59 square miles.

Improvements in agricultural practice.

After the Assignment, when the people began to return to the land, the rich soil of the Pāyānghāt was the first to be taken up, and the Bālāghāt remained comparatively neglected till later. In order to encourage cultivation in Bāsim District, it was considered desirable to lease entire villages on special terms to lessees who would be likely to repay themselves by importing sub-tenants, or, failing these, field labourers. Of these leased villages, forty-eight still remain. The measure undoubtedly gave an impetus to cultivation, but it may be doubted whether the wiser course would not have been to await patiently the extension, which was certain to come in time, of *ryotwāri* cultivation. For the last fifteen years the extension of the cultivated area has been steady and continuous. In agricultural practice there has, however, been no marked improvement. On the contrary, the cultivator here, as elsewhere in Berār, has abandoned the cultivation of the fine quality of cotton for which the province was formerly famous, in favour of a coarser but more prolific variety. The ryots have not in the past availed themselves freely of the Loans Acts; but the famine of 1899-1900 brought the advantages offered under these Acts into prominent notice, and loans were freely applied for and taken. During the prosperous years which ensued there have naturally been fewer applications for loans; but the solvent and thrifty cultivator has doubtless learnt that it is the Government, rather than the money-lender, who is his friend in need.

Cattle, &c.

The principal breed of cattle is the Umarda, or smaller variety of the Berāri breed; but the character of the cattle in the District has been modified in the past by an admixture of the types found in the northern tracts of the Hyderābād State, and more lately, since years of scarcity and famine, by the importation of cattle of the Nimāri, Sholāpuri, and Labbāni breeds. Buffaloes are chiefly of the Dakhani breed. The local breeds of ponies, sheep, and goats are inferior, and the

breeders have neither the knowledge nor the means necessary to their improvement.

Irrigation. Only 6 square miles of the cultivated land were irrigated in 1903–4, consisting almost entirely of garden crops, watered from wells.

Forests. Of the forest land, 266 square miles are reserved for the production of timber and fuel, 19 square miles are *ramna* land, and 436 square miles are grazing land. The forests producing timber are situated on the northern slopes of the Bālāghāt, in the Bāsim *tāluk*, on the hills north of the Pūs river between the Mangrul and Pusad *tāluks*, on the hills forming the watershed between the Pūs and Pengangā rivers, and in the south-eastern corner of the Pusad *tāluk* in the loop of the Pengangā. All these forests contain teak, which varies in size and quality in different localities, the best being found in the Kinwat Reserve in the loop of the Pengangā. *Tiwas* (*Ougeinia dalbergioides*) is also common in this Reserve, but rarer elsewhere. *Ain* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *dhaura* (*Anogeissus latifolia*), *lendia* (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), and *dhāman* (*Grewia tiliaefolia*) are also common and useful trees. The following trees are common in both forest and cultivated land: *babūl* (*Acacia arabica*), *hiwar* (*Acacia leucophloea*), *mahuā* (*Bassia latifolia*), *gular* (*Ficus glomerata*), *chinch* or *imlī* (*Tamarindus indica*), and *ber* (*Zizyphus Jujuba*). The mango is cultivated, but does not grow wild in the forests; bamboos are rare, and, where found, inferior.

Minerals. The iron ore found in the Pusad hills, which has already been mentioned, seems to be the only mineral product of the District, and it is very doubtful whether it is of economic value.

Arts and manufactures. There are no important manufactures. The principal industry is the preparation of cotton for the market. The District contained 16 ginning factories and 2 cotton-presses, all worked by steam.

Commerce. The chief export is cotton, which is sent by road to Akola and thence by rail to Bombay. Some of the cotton from the south of the Pusad *tāluk* finds its way to the Hyderābād-Godāvari Valley Railway. Oilseeds and grain and pulse are also exported. The principal imports are grain and pulse, sugar, salt, and oils, which come chiefly from Akola, having been brought thither by rail. Most of the internal trade is effected through the agency of the weekly markets at *pargana* towns. Bāsim town has a cotton market. The traders are chiefly Mārwāris and Komatis.

There is no railway in the District; but a project to connect the Hyderābād-Godāvari Valley Railway with Khandwā, by means of a line which will run through Bāsim and Akola, is under consideration. Railways and roads.

The total length of metalled roads is 62 miles, and of unmetalled roads 110 miles. All these, except 5 miles of the former and 27 of the latter which are maintained from Local funds, are in charge of the Public Works department. The principal road in the District is the Akola-Hingolī road, which passes through Medsī and Bāsim town, and is the highway from the latter place to the railway. The roads to Pusad and Umarkhed are metalled for a short distance only.

As regards liability to famine, the District cannot be differentiated from the rest of Berār. The crops depend upon the south-west monsoon, the failure of which is not often so extensive as to cause severe distress. In 1896–7 the District suffered from scarcity owing to a partial failure of the rainfall, and in 1899–1900 the famine which was felt throughout Berār afflicted Bāsim severely. The difficulty of coping with this calamity was increased by the immigration of large numbers from the Hyderābād State, where relief measures were less perfect than in Berār. In May, 1900, when the distress was at its height, 103,215 persons were on relief works and 36,350 in receipt of gratuitous relief; and it is calculated that 24,000 cattle died. Famine.

The three *tāluks*, at the head-quarters of each of which there is a *tahsīldār*, have already been mentioned. The superior staff of the District consists of the usual officers. District subdivisions and staff.

The arrangements for the administration of justice are described in the article on AKOLA DISTRICT. Dacoities, cattle-thefts, and housebreakings fluctuate in numbers, as elsewhere, with the state of the season, but are somewhat more numerous than in the Pāyānghāt, owing to the large number of Banjārās in the District. These, however, are gradually being weaned from their criminal propensities. Murders, which are not common, are usually due to personal motives. Civil and criminal justice.

According to the *Ain-i-Akbarī*, the land revenue demand in the *parganas* composing Bāsim District was 6·8 lakhs, a sum which but slightly falls short of the land revenue demand in the same area in 1903–4, which was 8 lakhs. The extent to which Bāsim, in common with the rest of Berār, suffered from the wars, maladministration, and natural calamities of the latter part of the seventeenth, the eighteenth, and the early part of the nineteenth century is illustrated by the striking fall in the Land revenue.

land revenue demand, which in 1853, at the time of the Assignment, was returned by the Nizām's officers—who had certainly no reason for understating it—at 2·4 lakhs. Considering the extension of cultivation, and the rise in the price of produce since Akbar's time, it is evident that the present assessment, though absolutely somewhat higher than Akbar's, is relatively very much lighter.

The first regular settlement of the District after the Assignment was made between 1872 and 1875, and is now expiring; but in those tracts where it has already expired the introduction of the new rates, assessed in 1899, has been postponed, owing to the extent to which the District suffered from the famine of 1899–1900. Under the new assessment the maximum rate is Rs. 1–12 per acre, the minimum 7 annas, and the average 12 annas 4 pies. Land irrigated from streams is assessed at a special land and water rate of Rs. 8 per acre, except in the Pusad *tāluk*, where, for the purpose of encouraging irrigation, it is assessed either as 'dry' land or as land irrigated from wells. Land irrigated from wells is assessed at the maximum rate for 'dry' land in the village in which it is situated where the wells have been sunk before the original survey; but land irrigated from wells sunk since that time is treated as 'dry' land. The average increase of the new rates over the old amounts to 32·2 per cent. throughout the District, but in areas in which the increase is greater than 33 per cent. the enhanced rates are to be gradually introduced.

Collections on account of land revenue and revenue from all sources have been, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-1.	1890-1.	1900-1.	1903-4.
Land revenue . .	5,90	6,02	6,23	7,15
Total revenue . .	7,23	8,63	15,68	9,18

Local boards.

BĀSIM town is administered by a municipality, and local affairs in the rest of the District were under the District board, with the three *tāluk* boards subordinate to it. The expenditure of the District board in 1903–4 was Rs. 65,000, of which Rs. 25,000 was laid out on public works and Rs. 10,000 on education. The principal sources of income were Provincial rates, assessed taxes, and the Provincial contribution for primary education.

Police and jails.

The District had 20 police stations, 4 outposts, and 3 road-posts, and the force under the District Superintendent of police numbered 413 of all ranks. The District jail at Bāsim

was the only jail, and contained in 1904 a daily average of 44 inmates.

Education. Bāsim stood fifth among the six Districts of Berār in the literacy of its population, of whom 3·1 per cent. (6·0 males and 0·2 females) were able to read and write in 1901. Education is most advanced in the Bāsim *tāluk*. In 1903–4 the District contained 73 public, 19 aided, and 30 unaided schools with a total of 4,881 pupils, of whom 4,083 were in public schools and 370 were girls. Of the 74 primary schools, 69 were managed by the District board and 5 by the Bāsim municipality. The great majority of those under instruction were in primary classes, and no girls had advanced beyond this stage. Of the male population of school-going age, 6 per cent. were in the primary stage of instruction, and of the female population of the same age, 0·5 per cent. In recent years the experiment of combining elementary instruction in such handicrafts as cane-work and carpentry with the ordinary school course has been tried, but it is too soon to pronounce definitely on its success. The total expenditure on education in 1903–4 was Rs. 34,100, of which Rs. 29,000 was contributed by local bodies and Rs. 2,565 was realized from fees.

Hospitals and dispensaries. The District possessed one civil hospital and five dispensaries, with accommodation for 27 in-patients. In 1903 the number of cases treated was 36,467, of whom 252 were in-patients, and 940 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 7,365, of which the greater part was met from Provincial contributions.

Vaccination. Vaccination has made satisfactory progress in the District. In 1903–4 the proportion of persons successfully vaccinated was 33·7 per 1,000, the mean for the province being 36·6. Vaccination is compulsory only in the municipal town of Bāsim.

District redistribution. On the reconstitution of the six Districts of Berār in August, 1905, Bāsim ceased to exist as a separate District. The *tāluks* of Bāsim and Mangrūl were transferred to Akola and now form the Bāsim subdivision of that District, and the *tāluk* of Pusad was transferred to Wūn, now designated Yeotmāl District.

ERRATUM

p. 126, l. 9 from bottom, *for* '1813' *read* '1803.'

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B.

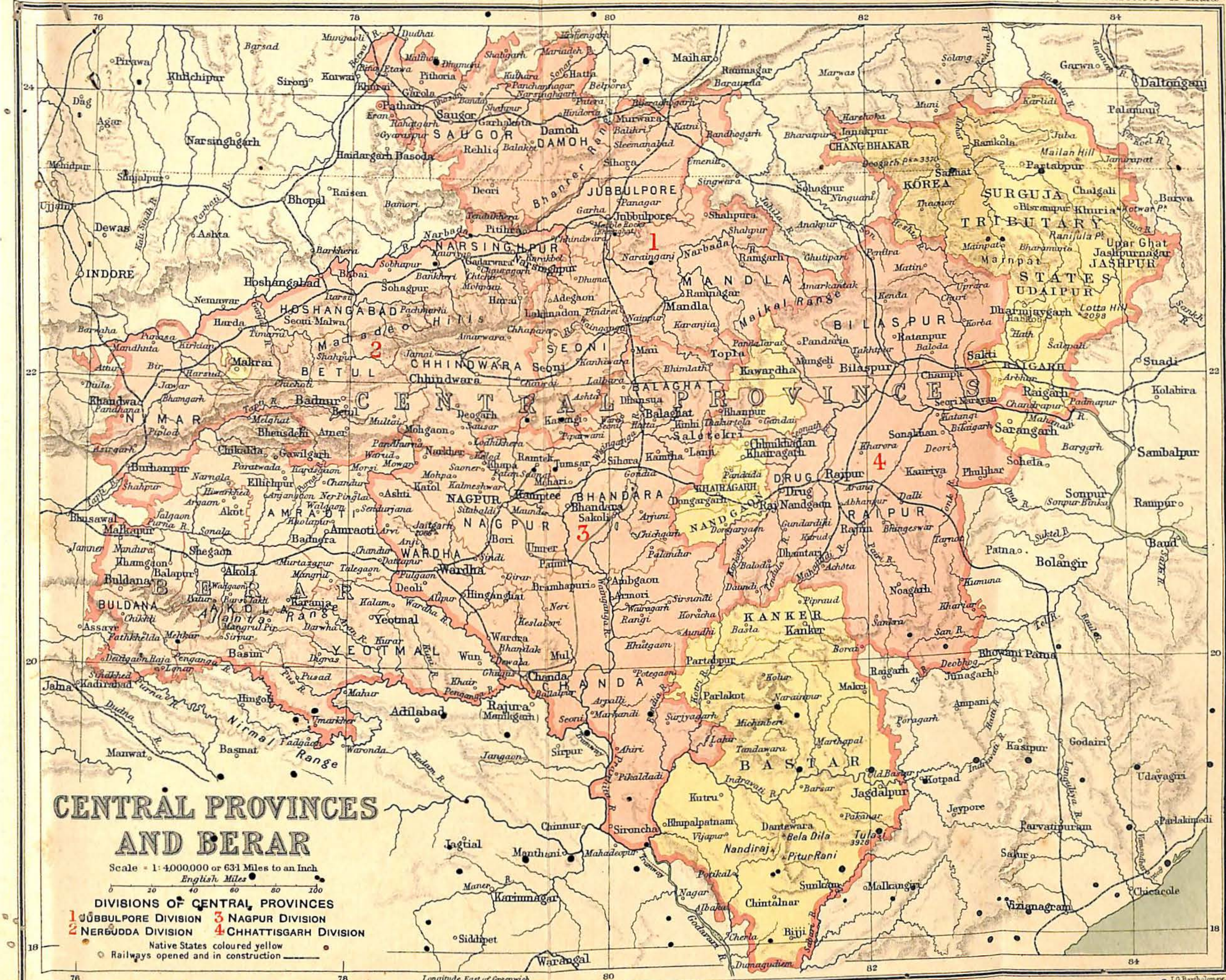
C.

I.

N.

Oxford: HORACE HART, Printer to the University


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Hatta
Belpora
Hindoria
Murwara
Damoh
DAMOH
Balikri
Sleemanabad
Sihora
JUBBULPOR
Panagar
Garha
Jubbulpor
Marble Rocks
Chhindwara
Narainga
Dhuma
Adegaon
Pindrei
Nainpur
SEONI
Mani
Kanhiwara
Lalbara
Ashta
Dhansua
Katangi
Tipparwani
Hatta
Tumsar
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BHANDARA
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